Wirth Family Genealogy

Forward

This book is a compilation of work by John "Jack" Wirth and his siblings, Guy and Gary, over the course of many years. Their work was consolidated and printed by Greg and Jeff Wirth, sons of Guy Wirth, in 2025 in recognition of John and his spouse Laverne's 90th birthdays.

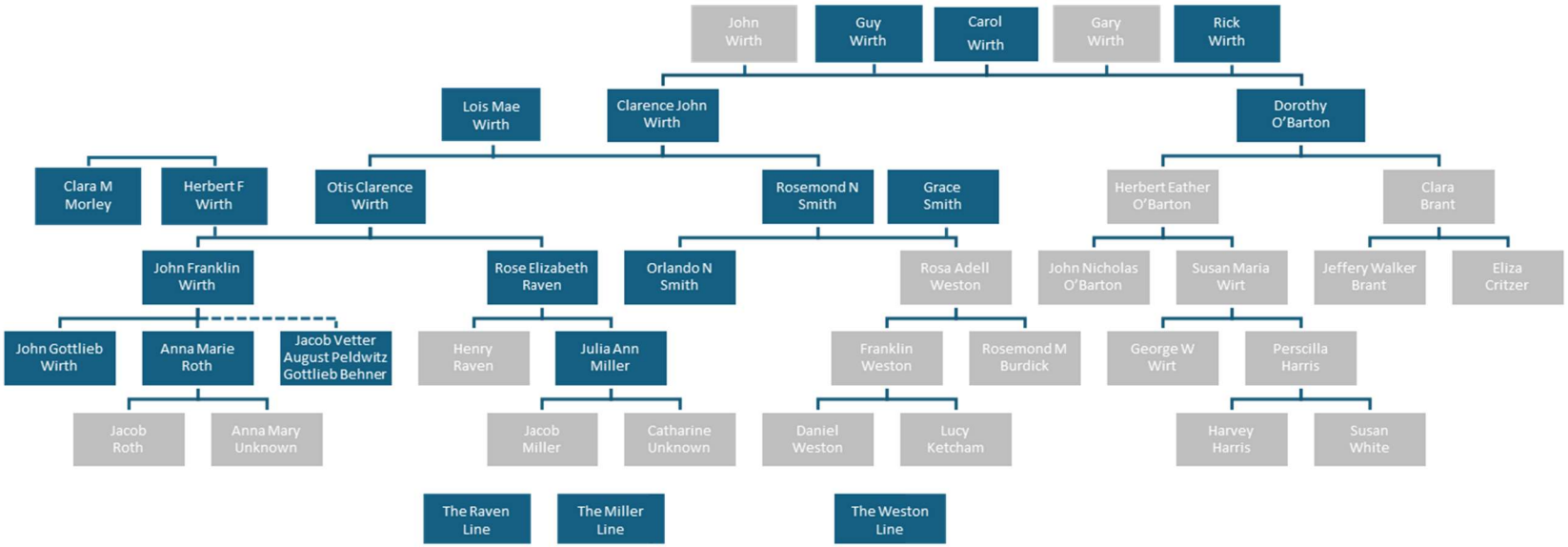
The original authors' work was also augmented with the last 3 chapters. These include obituaries for Guy, Rick, and Carol (Metz) Wirth.

The figure on the next page is also based on the original authors' work. It is not an exhaustive list of family members but is instead intended to help put the chapters of this book in context. Greater detail exists in those chapters.

At the time of this writing, a digital version of this book as well as the files referenced in it are available at the Internet Archive, https://archive.org/.[1]

[1] https://archive.org/details/wirth-family-genealogy

Wirth Family Tree



Family tree designed to provide context for chapters in this book. It does not include all family members.

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Wirth Family Genealogy

Written by Gary, Guy and John Wirth

Foreword

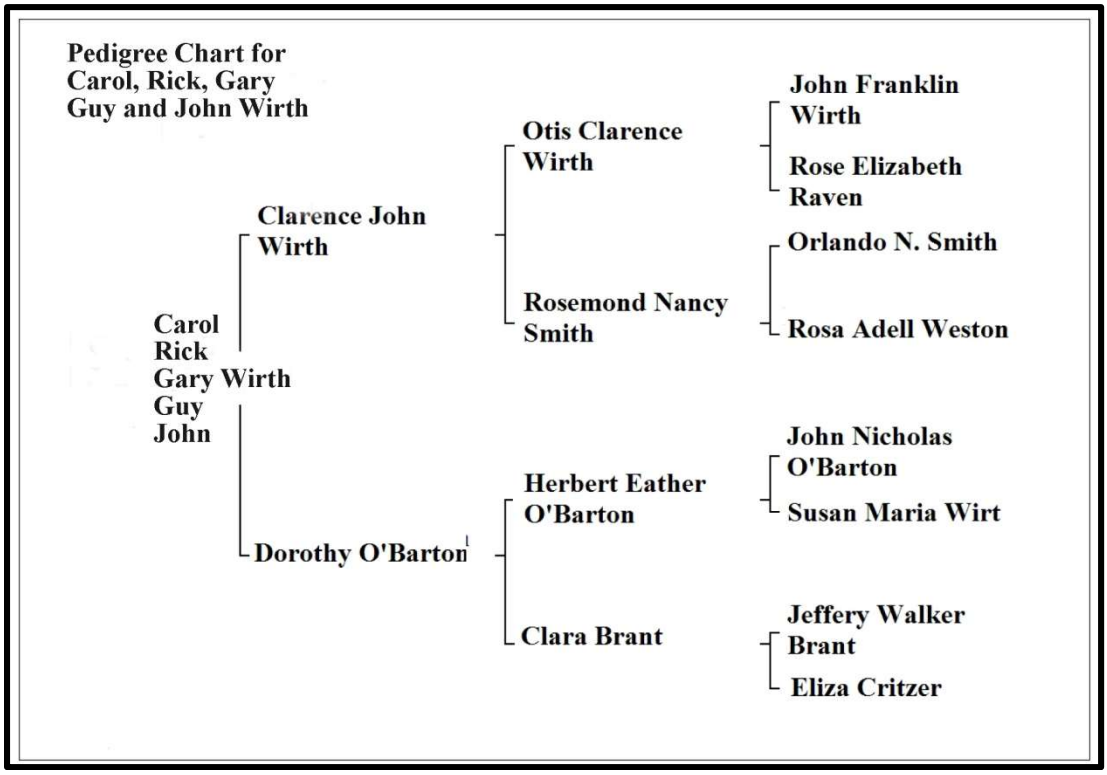
It seems that the nature of the human experience is to search for our origins through the study of archeology, paleontology, astronomy, genealogy and related fields. Even the first book of the Bible, Genesis, begins with the words "In the beginning…." and addresses the origin of the earth and humanity.

While hardly tracing our ancestors from "the beginning", this document traces the family tree of the Wirth family of Weesaw Township, Berrien County, Michigan. It is dedicated to the author's parents, Dorothy and Clarence Wirth, and to their departed children, our siblings Carol and Rick. In addition to our family tree, it also includes several ascending branches of the author's ancestors. These branches were researched in the hope that some of these relatives may still exist and have additional information such as photographs or their own research which would be of interest.

The study is organized into many chapters, the first being an overview of the Wirth family tree and references the remaining chapters which contain more detail about each ancestor or ancestral line. It is thereby a roadmap for understanding the rest of the document. In addition, this document references several sets of photographs which provide insight into the lifestyle of various families.

Overview

John, Guy and Gary Wirth, the authors of this genealogy, are the sons of Dorothy and Clarence Wirth as indicated in the pedigree chart shown in the figure below. They and deceased siblings Carol and Rick grew up on a farm in southwest Michigan developed by their paternal ancestors, their father Clarence, grandfather Otis and great grandfather John Franklin Wirth. The farm is located about 3 miles south of the town of New Troy in Weesaw Township, Berrien County, Michigan. The lives of each of the above are presented in more detail in individual chapters or (auto)-biographies that follow this overview.



The author's mother, Dorothy, is the third child of H. Eather O'Barton and Clara Brant. Dorothy was born in New Buffalo, MI and raised in Sawyer, MI. Her father Eather was born in the Sawyer Michigan area to parents Susan Wirt and John Nicholas O'Barton. John Nicholas is from France, coming to Michigan in about 1853 as discussed in chapter O'BARTON LINE along with his other children. Susan was born in New York State and lived in Michigan near the Wirth farm. Dorothy's mother, Clara, is the daughter of Jefferson Walker Brant and Eliza Critzer who lived on a small farm a few miles north of Sawyer. The Brant family has also been traced to very early in the Country's history.

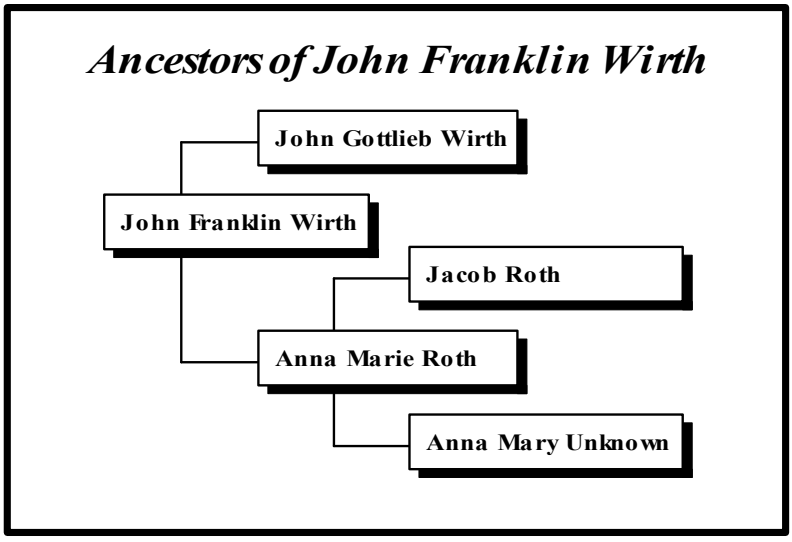
Our father, Clarence Wirth, is the third child of Otis and Rosemond Wirth. Otis Wirth is the second child of John Franklin and Rose E. Raven Wirth. He was born in 1883 on the Wirth farm in Michigan. He and Rosemond N. Smith had 4 children with Clarence and his sister Lois surviving to maturity. Information about Lois and Otis' brother Herbert Wirth is contained in a chapter entitled The WIRTH LINE. Rosemond is the eldest child of Orlando Smith and Rose Adell Weston. Rose was born in New York State before immigrating to Michigan. There is an extensive history of the Weston family that extends back many generations to England. Orlando was born in Wisconsin. He is believed to have been adopted by the Smith family and had a birth surname of Nehrlich.

John Franklin is the son of John Gottlieb Wirth and Anna Marie Roth-Wirth. He was born in Ohio in 1853 and first came to Michigan in 1855 with his parents and younger brother Henry. After purchasing the farm on which the authors grew up, John Gottlieb died in 1857. After his death, Anna Marie remarried and with her children John and Henry settled on a portion of the Wirth farm in Michigan. Upon reaching maturity, John Franklin inherited the farm, married Rose E. Raven of Ohio and homesteaded the Wirth farm in Michigan. Two sons, Herbert and Otis were born to John F. and Rose and raised on their farm.

The majority these ancestors are of German extraction. The only major exceptions are John Nicholas O'Barton, who was French, and the Weston and Brant lines. The Weston's and Brant's have been in the USA for many generations and have many inter-nationality marriages but are thought to be mostly of English descent.

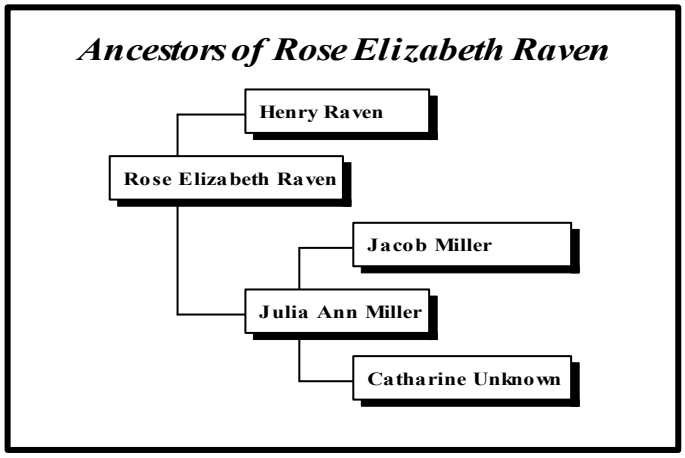
The next figures extend the ancestor tree for each individual on the right of the above figure. In some cases, these trees are relatively small because little is known about the ancestors of this person.

The chart on the right shows the ancestors of John F. Wirth. Little is known about his father, John Gottlieb Wirth. It is believed that he came from Germany, but there is no proof of that other than the census entries of his son John F. Wirth. More is known about John F. Wirth's mother, Anna Marie Roth. She was born in Germany and came to the USA with her parents Jacob and Anna Mary Roth in 1832. The Roths settled in Medina County, Ohio, as described in the chapter entitled ROTH LINE. After the death of John G. Wirth, Anna Marie then married three more times, to Jacob Vetter (VETTER LINE), August PELDEWITZ, and Gottlieb BEHNER.

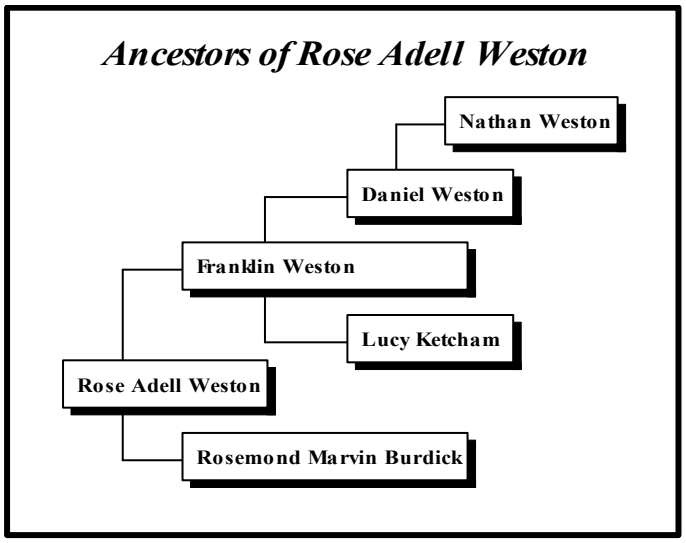


The parents of Rose (Rosa) E. Raven are Henry Raven and Julia Ann Miller as shown below. Little is known about Henry. He married Julia in about 1852 in Lorain County, OH and census data indicates that he was from Germany. He does not appear in the 1850 census, however,

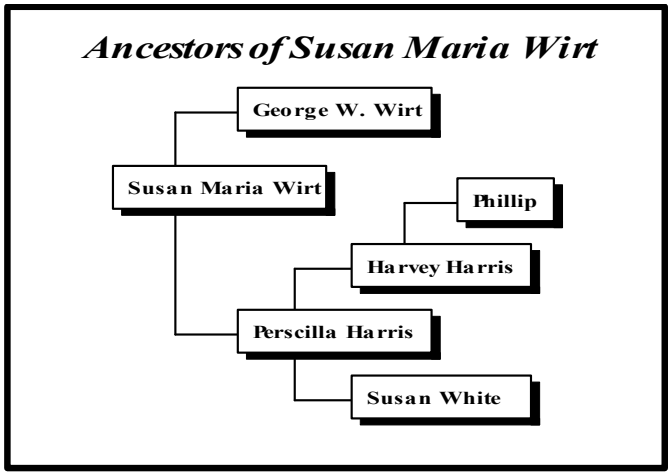
suggesting that he immigrated shortly after 1850. He is not shown in the 1870 census and is presumed dead. His other children are discussed in chapter RAVEN LINE. Julia then married William S. Wallace giving rise to the WALLACE LINE described later in a chapter by that name. Julia's parents, Jacob and Catharine Miller, also came from Germany. They immigrated in 1848 according to Julia's census data and are shown in the 1850 census of Lorain Co., OH with three other daughters. It is believed that they also had at least one son who is shown as a farmer living nearby Jacob and Catharine in Ohio.



Little is known about the ancestry of Orlando Smith and an ancestor's chart is not included here. However, he left a rather complete record of his life which is documented in a chapter by his name, which also documents his other daughter Grace Smith-Lee.



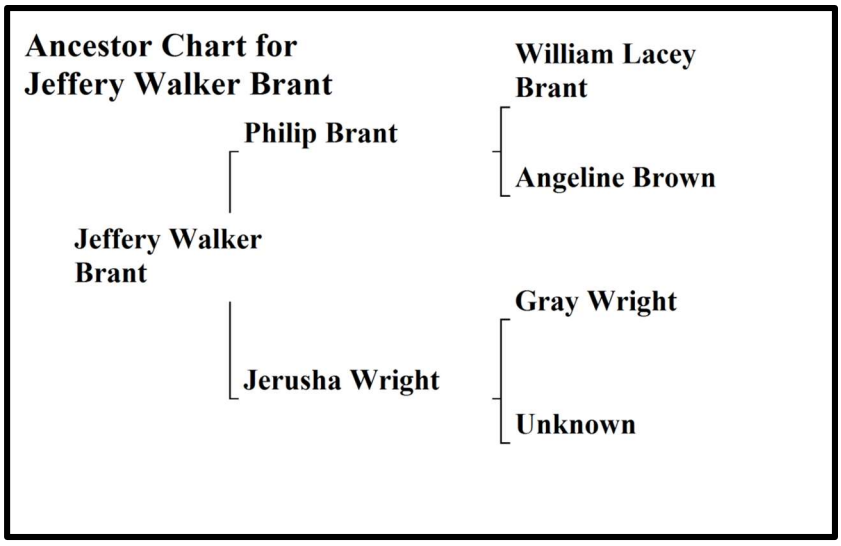
There is an extensive family tree for the Weston family, a portion of which is shown here. This line has been traced by other researchers to 1644 in Salem, Massachusetts and then to England. Rose Adell was born in New York and emigrated to southwestern Michigan with her parents Franklin and Rosemond. Since the authors have done little independent research into this family, a single chapter entitled THE WESTON LINE is included later in this document.



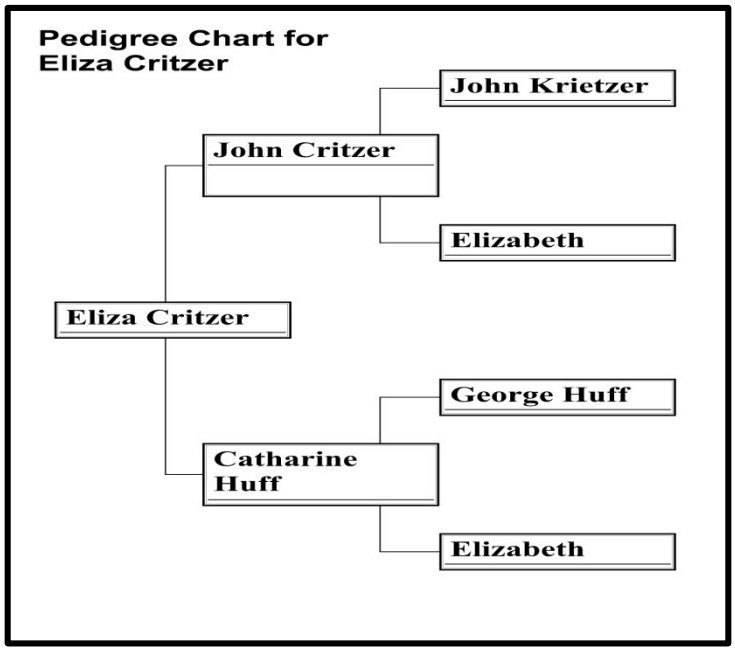
Susan Wirt was born in New York to parents George Wirt and Priscilla Harris. Other researchers indicate that George first emigrated from Germany to England where her married Priscilla,

and then emigrated with Priscilla to NY before finally settling in Berrien County Michigan only a mile from the Wirth farm. Susan had several siblings, one of whom was killed in the Civil War. A chapter is devoted to THE WIRT LINE.

Other researchers have developed an extensive family tree for the Brant family as indicated in the figure below and discussed in a single chapter entitled THE BRANT LINE. While the Brant surname would appear to be German, one researcher indicates that it was originally BRAND and probably of British extraction. The Brant family immigrated to southwestern Michigan from the East Coast in the 1840s led by Simeon Brant II and his family.



Eliza Critzer is the daughter of John Critzer and Catharine Huff as shown in the figure on the right. Eliza was born in Berrien County, Michigan and lived on, or near, the present Tabor Hill Winery. Her line is also believed to be of German extraction. The identity of Catharine Huff's parents is speculative, but comes from another researcher who followed the Huff line. This association is described more



fully in the chapter on the CRITZER LINE

In addition to the chapters which follow this summary, there are several digital folders containing images of albums and documents which flesh out the Wirth family genealogy. Their contents are summarized below:

Dorothy and Clarence; 1930 and beyond. This folder contains images of the photo albums assembled by Dorothy and Clarence dating from their graduation from high school until Dorothy's death in 2008. Audio and video files are also included.

Lois Wirth Album. Lois With-Watson kept an album as a young woman through her high school years. It contains old farm and high school photos dating from about 1915 through 1924.

Old farm documents. This folder contains images of documents found in the Wirth farm safe. It includes documents of the Vetter family in addition to title information about the farm.

Old Wirth Album. Images of photos kept by the Wirth family which predate 1930 are in this folder.

Special Studies. This folder contains several other folders and files which, in turn, document investigations of events or activities of the family. It includes the history of Elm Valley School, the history of the Women's Country Club, Lyle's scooter, etc.

Bernice's Albums. Bernice O'Barton-Largerquist kept documents and photos which were put into albums and their images are copied here. Included are newspaper clippings, death notices, etc.

John Gottlieb Wirth | ~1827-1857

Our great-great-grandfather was John Gottlieb Wirth. We know very little about him, where he came from, etc. Census records of his son John Franklin Wirth indicates that he was born in Germany. To date, his name has not been found in immigration records or ship manifests. The obituary of our g-g-grandmother Anna Marie Roth indicates that she married Wirth in 1851. In about 1849, she had joined the Evangelical Association faith, a Methodist-like German speaking faith, which began in the early 1800s and was popular with the German pioneers in Ohio, etc. We surmise, therefore, that Anna Marie and Wirth were married in that faith, probably near her home in Median Co., OH. Unfortunately, no record of the marriage has been found in county records or in searches of Evangelical Association records.

1850 census searches under the surnames Wirth, Wirt, Wert and Werth, born in Germany, yielded the following results:

Wirth: John G. Wirth 23, farmer born Germany, living with Hildebrand family
Earl Township, Lancaster Co., Penn.
Werth: No findings
Wert: John Wert, 27, farm laborer, born Germany, living with Espenshades
West Lampeter Twp., Lancaster Co., Penn.
Wirt: John Wirth, 30, Engineer, born Germany, living with others
Economy Twp., Beaver Co., Penn.

Families headed by Wirth, etc. with multiple children were disregarded in this search.

The most likely candidate for our g-g-grandfather from the above list is the one found in Earl Twp., Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania. Thus, we assume he came from Germany and was born in about 1827, and would have been about 4 years older than Anna Marie.

The only official record we have of John Gottlieb is the probate record filed after his death to settle his estate. These records provide a picture of Anna Marie's family structure as well details about the property that they bought. She is referred to as A. Mary Wirth in some of these documents and marks with an X rather than a signature.

The attachments to this note are transcriptions of the materials in the probate file of John Gottlieb Wirth obtained from the Berrien County Historical Association. The original record is contained in Berrien County Probate Court File #383. This transcription, done by John L. Wirth, has been taken from a reproduction of the original documents because the copy is not easily read in places due to both handwriting and photocopy difficulties. Spelling and grammatical errors were replicated to try to give a feel for the original document and the style of the period. The following is a summary of the data in the attachments plus other related information.

Summary

From the obituary of Anna Marie (Mary) Wirth, John Gottlieb and Mary came from Ohio to Dayton, MI sometime in 1855. At this writing, nothing officially is known about J. Gottleib's age, origins, etc. After living for a year or so in the Dayton area, they apparently found and

ultimately purchased a farm. The original farm, purchased from Edward Housden, encompassed the 120 acres that is currently in the Wirth name plus an additional 80 Acres that now belongs to Lozmack.

It appears that John Gottlieb and Mary (aka A. Mary) Wirth bought the farm from Edward Housden for $1500 on November 6, 1856. It was financed in part by a loan (Indenture) from George W. Housden in an amount of $280 and used 40 acres of their farm as collateral. This note is shown as Attachment 1 below. It is curious that the farm was purchased from Edward Housden who was probably related in some way to George. One of the witnesses to this loan is Catharine Roth, believed to be the wife of Peter Roth, a brother of Mary. John G. Wirth and Anna Mary must have had a large down payment of $1220 as the only debt appears to be $280.

On November 24, 1856 shortly after financing the Wirth's mortgage, Housden then used this mortgage as security for a loan to himself of $160 from Mathew M. Paddoc with interest to be paid by March of 1858. (Attachment 2)

The next year, on or about April 1, 1857, John Gottlieb died without leaving a will. It is reported in Mary's obituary that she then returned with her two children to Ohio. Probate considerations began in February, 1858.

Before the probate process actually began, however, Housden transferred his remaining interest "not hertofore apigned to Mathew Paddock" in the Wirth mortgage (valued at $120 plus interest due) to Samuel S. Hunt and authorized Hunt to collect the $120 plus interest from the estate or foreclose. (Attachment 3). Thus, it now appears that the $280 of debt in the original indenture is split between Paddock ($160) and Hunt ($120).

The probate process itself then begins with a petition (Attachment 4) filed by Samuel Hunt to appoint an administrator for the estate, one Benjamin M. Redding. Redding is an interesting person in that he was the first settler in the town of Dayton, arriving there in the 1830's just after the land was open for settlement. The petition is an important document because it establishes the date of death of John G. Wirth as "on or about April 1, 1857," sets forth his heirs as Mary, John and Henry Wirth, and indicates the interested parties to be Paddock, Hunt and one Doct. Phillips. The petition also indicates that John G. died in Galien Township whereas the town of Dayton is in Bertrand Township. Thus, the Wirth's must have lived west of Dayton by a mile or more to be across the boundary into Galien Township. This is the approximate location of the Wilson settlement.

Redding was appointed administrator on March 12, 1858 (See Attachment 5). Redding was required to post a bond of $3000, apparently to cover what was believed to be an upper bound on the value of the estate.

An inventory was then taken of the properties (Attachment 6). This indicated the legal description of the 200 acre farm. On the lower left of this attachment there is an alternate description that was penned on the inventory later in response to a "correction" that was introduced by Redding. It would appear that John G. and Mary did not own any property around Dayton at the time of his death because it is not listed in the estate inventory.

Next, appraisers were appointed by the Probate Court (Attachment 7) to place a value on the estate. They were Nathaniel and James Wilson of Galien Township. James H.Wilson is mentioned in the 1880 history of Berrien County as being one of the early settlers of the Galien area. He is the founder of the Wilson Community which marketed forest products to Chicago and the local area in the 1840-1860 timeframe. This community, with its sawmill and railroad sidetrack, was located about 2 miles west of Dayton, MI. Their evaluation of the value of each segment of the farm is shown on the Inventory (Added later to Attachment 6), placing a total value of $1520 on the farm as of April 5, 1858.

In addition to the mortgage on the farm, it appears that the Wirth's owed a small amount to a local store in Dayton. Attachment 8, compiled in April 1858, shows some charges to a store owned by John DiArmond who was also one of the early settlers in the area and made a lot of money selling goods to the Native Americans before they were resettled. Alex DiArmond, who wrote up this bill, is the son of John and was a prominent Doctor in the area.

Apparently, Redding was instructed by the Court on June 25, 1858 to sell the property so as to pay off the debts of the estate. Included as Attachment 9 dated Sept. 26, 1858 is a "correction" to the description of the property. If we read things correctly, his correction was wrong and the original description was correct. In addition, Redding indicates that there were no bidders at that time and he was delaying the sale.

It next appears that the ownership of a portion of the mortgage and its remaining $120 value had been transferred from Housden to Hunt (Attachment 3) and then from Hunt to William Graves and Charles B. Benedict. Graves and Benedict then sell their interest in the mortgage note to Peter Wrath (Roth???) of Medina County, Ohio. (See Attachment 10) Here we go, back to Ohio where Mary grew up from age 1 to age 20 or so.

At this point, $120 worth of the mortgage belongs to Peter Wrath of Medina County, Ohio and there remains another $160 debt payable to Matthew Paddock of Berrien County.

Finally, on March 1, 1859, the Probate Judge approves the sale of the 80 acres which is now known as the Lozmack farm to a Jacob Roth of Liverpool, Medina County Ohio for $450. The sale took place on February 4, 1859. (Attachment 11) It is not clear who ultimately received the money as it appears to be paid to Benjamin Redding, the administrator. Ultimately, it must have been paid to Anna Marie.

Correlation of the 1850 and 1860 census information suggests that in 1859 Jacob Roth lived on the farm previously identified in the 1850 census as belonging to the Rhodes family. This confusion is attributed to language difficulties between the German-speaking Roth family and the census taker. The German pronunciation of "Roth" sounds a bit like "Rod" or "Road" to an English-speaking census taker. This conclusion is further supported by the presence of Anna Marie Wirth and sons John F. and Henry R. in the Roth household in the 1860 census. The Roth farm is shown in the 1857 plat map of Liverpool Township, Medina Co., OH in section 6. The reference to "Liverpool" could possibly refer to the township of Liverpool or the town of Liverpool Center. Today, Liverpool Center is called Valley City.

Thus, at the end of probate, the mortgage of the present 120 acre Wirth farm appears to be in the hands to two people, Peter Wrath (Roth?) of Medina County, Ohio and Matthew Paddock of Berrien Co. Michigan. The present 120 acre Wirth farm was retained thereafter in the name of Mary and her sons John and Henry, by paying off Matthew Paddock later in 1865 several years after Anna Marie married Jacob Vetter. At this writing, the settlement with Peter Wrath is unclear, perhaps being funded by the estate sale of the 80 acre portion. The second part of the original 200 acre farm, sold to Jacob Roth above, was purchased from Roth by Jacob Vetter and his new wife, Ann Marie Wirth-Vetter, in 1865 for $450 and is now called the Lozmack Farm.

While not part of the probate file, there was an announcement of the probate process published in the Niles Inquirer. A copy of this announcement was obtained by Carol Wirth-Metz from the Three Oaks Township Library in July, 1972. It is a bit confusing in that it refers to a John J. Wirth rather than John Gottlieb Wirth, but all of the facts seem to fit the John G. profile. The copy of the probate announcement is shown in Attachment 12. It is a bit strange in that it was published on March 24, 1859 and calls everyone's attention to a probate meeting which already occurred on March 18.

Ultimately, titles to the present Wirth and Lozmack farms were cleared even though there appears to be several intervening claims based in part upon unpaid taxes. For example, in 1861 Henry H. Colidge and wife deed to A. W. Hall 80 acres which would include the "back 40" of the Wirth farm even though there is no record that they owned it. Then in 1864 A. W. Hall's executors deed to Sarah Hall 150 acres which encompassed almost the entire present Wirth farm. Rufus Landon is then deeded the "back 40" of the Wirth farm for back taxes in 1865. Similarly, Jesse Helmich was deeded the 40 acres which now includes the Wirth home for back taxes in 1857. Somehow, all this was cleared up and in 1906 Rose E. Wirth, wife of John Franklin Wirth, gets clear title to the present Wirth farm.

Appendix

Attachment 1

INDENTURE

This Indenture made the sixth day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty six between John Gottlieb Wirth of the County of Berrien and State of Michigan of the first part and George W. Housden of the same place of the second part ---- Witnesseth that the said party of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of two hundred and eighty dollars of lawful money of the United States to him in hand payed by the party of the second part the receipt whereof is hereby confessed and acknowledged have granted bargained sold remised released alined and confirmed and by these presents do grant bargain sell remise release

aline and confirm unto the said party of the second part and to their heirs and assigns --For Ever all of that parcel of land Saying and being in the Township of Wesaw County of Berrien and State of Michigan known and described as the South East Quarter of the North East Quarter of Section Thirty Township Seven South of Range Nineteen West containing Forty Acres according to the general Survey be the same more or less --To Have and to Hold the above bargaining promises unto the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns to the sole and only proper use benefit and behoof of the said party of the second part he heirs and asigns forever --Provided Always and these presents or upon this Express Condition that if the said party of the first part pay to said party of the second part the sum of two hundred and eighty dollars as follows one hundred and thirty by the first of April one thousand eight hundred and fifty seven and one hundred and fifty by the first of March one thousand eight hundred and fifty eight according to the notes given payable as mentioned above with interest bearing even date herewith executed by John Gottlieb Worth and payable to the party of the second part or collateral property there presents and they shall cease and be null and void But in case of nonpayment of the said sum of two hundred and eighty dollars and interest or any part there of as above specified then and in such case it shall and may be lawful for the said party of the second part his executors administrators or apigned and the said party of the first part do hereby empower and otherwise the said party of the second part his heirs executors administrators or apigned to grant bargain sell release and convey the said premises with the approvenances at Public Auction or vendue and on such sale to make and execute to the purchaser or purchasers their heirs and apigns for ever good and ample and sufficient deed or deeds or covenances in law pursuant the statute in such cases made and provided rendering the surplus moneys if any there abouts be to the said party of the first part his heirs executors or administrators after deducting the costs and charges of such vendue and sale aforesaid

In Witness ---Whereof the said party of the first part have hereunto set his hand seal the day and year first above mentioned

J. Gottlieb Wirth
A. Mary (X) Wirth
(X is her sign)

Signed Sealed and delivered in presents of
T. I. Fenton
Catherine Roth

State of Michigan
County of Berrien
On this sixth day of November A.D. one Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Six before me a justice of the peace in and for said county personally came the above named John Gottlib Wirth and Ann Mary his wife known to be the persons who executed the fore going instrument and acknowledged the same to be their free act and deed and the said Ann Mary wife of the said John Gottlib Worth being by me personally examined apart from her husband acknowledged that she executed the same freely and voluntarily with out any fear of compulsion of any one

F. I Fenton Justice of the Peace

Attachment 2

State of Michigan
Berrien County
Nov 24 1856

This is to certify that I George W Housden have this day assigned all my right title and interest to the fore going mortgage as contained hearin to Mathew M. Paddoc as security for the sum of one hundred and sixty dollars ($160.00) with interest to be paid by the first day of March 1858.

George W. Housden

State of Michigan
1856 County of Berrien On this 24th day of November personly came the above George W. Housden before me A Justice of the Peace in and for said County sertified that he executed the arrgment the above Instrument for the purposes theirin mention

Hiram Fellows
Justice of the Peace

Attachment 3

I, George W. Housden the mortgagee of the Wirth's mortgage do hereby for a valuable consideration apign transfer and set over all my right title and interest of in and to the Wirth's Mortgage being the interest of One hundred and twenty $120 dollars & the interest due or to become due on the same having a balance of said mortgage not heretofore apigned to Mathew M Paddock and the same is hearby apigned to Samuel S. Hunt and the said Hunt is hereby empowered to collect and receive the said $120 dollars & interest thereon and in case of nonpayment to foreclose this mortgage for the same. Witness my hand and seal this 8th day of February A. D. 1858

G. W. Housden

In presence of
Warren Chapman
Nathl Gamow

State of Michigan *On this 8th day of February A.D. 1858 before*
Berrien County me a Notary Public before said County came
George W. Housden and acknowledged the above apignment to be his free act and deed

Warren Chapman
Notary Public

Attachment 4

PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR Sold at Begg Campbell & Patten's Book Store, corner of Jefferson Avenue and Grlswold Street, Detroit

In the matter of the Estate of John G. Wirth

To the Hon. *Benjamin F Fish* *Judge of Probate for the*
County of *Berrien* *in the State of Michigan:*

The petition of *Samuel S. Hunt*
who is of the age of twenty one and upwards of the
County of *Berrien* respectfully shews:

That John G. Wirth late of Galien Township in said County of Berrien departed this life in said County of Berrien on or about the 1st day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty Seven *without leaving any* last Will and Testament, as your petitioner is informed and verily believes.

That said deceased was, at and immediately previous to his death, an inhabitant of said County of Berrien and that he was possessed of Real Estate, situated and being in the County of Berrien to be administered, and that the estimated value thereof is the sum of Two Thousand dollars or thereabouts as your petitioner is informed and verily believes,

And your petitioner further shews that the names and residences of the heirs at law of said deceased, and other persons interested in his Estate, are as follows:

Mary Wirth, Widow of said deceased
John Wirth and Henry Wirth heirs of said deceased now residing in the State of Ohio

M. M. Paddock, Samuel S. Hunt and Doct Phillips of Berrien County as asiding

Your petitioner therefore prays that all persons interested in said Estate may be duly cited as required by law and as to this Court may seem proper, and that administration of said Estate may be granted to Benjamin M. Redding of said County and that such other and further order and proceedings may be had in the promises as may be required by the statutes in such made and provided.

Dated: 16 February A.D. 1858
Samuel S. Hunt
12 March
Dayton

Attachment 5

APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR

At a Court of Probate for the County of Berrien in the State of Michigan held at the Probate Office in the Village of Berrien in said County on Friday the 12th day of March, A.D. 1858
Present Benjamin F. Fish, Judge of Probate

In the matter of the Estate of John G. Wirth, late of said County, deceased, This being the time and place appointed for hearing the Petition of Samuel Hunt for letters of Administration of said Estate to be granted to Benjamin M. Redding as Administrator, and it appearing to the satisfaction of this Court that due and legal notification has been given of the pendency and hearing of said Petition in pursuance of the Order of this Court: And that said John G. Wirth, deceased, died intestate in Galien Township in said County of Berrien on or about the 1st day of April A.D. 1857, leaving property to be administered in said County, and that said Benjamin Redding is a suitable and proper person to be appointed as Administrator, and there being no objections made, It is ordered that said Benjamin M. Redding be appointed Administrator of said Estate, and that Letters of Administration be issued to him on his giving bond with approved security in the penal sum of Three Thousand dollars conditioned as required by law,

In testimony where of I have hereto set my hand and affixed the seal of the said Probate Court this 12th day of March A.D. 1858.

Benjamin F. Fish, Judge of Probate

Attachment 6

INVENTORY

County of *Berrien* **ss.**

A true and perfect Inventory of all the real estate, goods and chattels, rights and credits, of *John G. Wirth* late of *Galien Township* in the County of *Berrien* deceased, which are by law to be administered, made by

Benjamin M. Redding
Administrator of said deceased. That is to say:

E 1/2 of the S.E. 1/4 Sec. 30 J T S R 19 W. 80 Acres	*$640*
W 1/2 of the N.E.qr. Sec. 30 J T S R 19 W. 80 Acres	*$560*

S. E. qr of the NE qr Sec. 30 J T S R 19 W. 40 Acres *$320*
All in Berrien County Michigan *$1520*

Should be S 1/2 of E 1/4 & N 1/2 S.E.1/4
& S.E. 1/4 of S.E.1/4
this advertised for sale

Attachment 7

Appraisers Warrant. Printed and sold by R. H. Finley, Rotunda, Griswold St., Detroit

STATE OF MICHIGAN, ss.

County of *Berrien* **Probate Court for said County**

By *Benjamin F. Fish* **Judge of Probate for said County:**

In the matter of the Estate of *John G. Wirth*
Deceased:

To: *Nathaniel Wilson and James K. Wilson*
_____ of said County, GREETING:

You are hereby empowered, as two suitable and disinterested persons, according to your best skill and judgment, truly and justly to appraise, as soon as may be, in dollars and cents, all the estate and effects, both real and personal comprised in the Inventory of the Estate of *John G. Wirth* late of *Galien Township* in said County, deceased, which may be in said County of *Berrien* according to the present value thereof, being first sworn to the faithful performance of that trust.

And when you shall have performed that service as aforesaid, you are to deliver the said Inventory, together with this Warrant, and your doings thereon, to *Benjamin W. Redding, Administrator.*

of the goods and estate of said deceased, who *is* hereby accordingly directed so to return and exhibit the same on oath in the Probate Office in said County of *Berrien* within three months from the time of taking upon *himself* that trust.

Witness, the said *Benjamin F Fish* Judge of Probate as aforesaid under his hand and seal of said Court, at *Berrien* this *seventienth* day of *March* in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty *Eight*.

Benjamin F. Fish

Judge of Probate for said County.

COUNTY OF *Berrien* **--ss.**

The *3rd* day of *March* A.D. 185 *8*, then personally appeared

Nathanial Wilson and James K. Wilson

Appraisers above named, and made oath that they would faithfully discharge the trust to which they are appointed by the above warrant.

Sworn before me, *this 3rd day of April A.D. 1858*

Benjamin F. Fisch, Judge of Probate

We, the undersigned Appraisers, appointed by the Judge of Probate for the County of *Berrien* by virtue of the foregoing Warrant, having first taken the oath prescribed by law, for the faithful discharge of the trust under said appointment, do hereby certify, that we have truly and justly estimated and appraised all the estate and effects of *John G. Wirth* late of *Galien Township* in said County, deceased as exhibited to us, and comprised in the foregoing Inventory, according to the best of our skill and judgement, at the respective sums placed opposite each item therin mentioned.

Dated, *April 5th* 185*8*

Nathaniel Wilson
J. W. Wilson
_____

STATE OF MICHIGAN

COUNTY OF *Berrien* **Probate Court for said County:**

In the matter of the Estate of *John G. Wirth* *Deceased.*

Benjamin M. Redding

Administrator of the Estate of said *John G. Wirth* deceased, personally *appeared* and made oath that the foregoing is a true and perfect Inventory of all the Estate of said deceased that hath come to *his* hands and knowledge; and that if *he* shall hereafter become possessed of any further assets belonging to the Estate of said deceased *he* will give it into the Probate Office of said County, to be of record herewith.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, the *16th*
day of *April* A.D. 185*8*

Benjamin F. Fish
Judge of Probate *B. M.Redding*

Attachment 8

Dayton March 16, 1857

J. G. Wirth in Act. with John Di Armond

March 14, 1857	for	2	Sugar	16c	.28
		1	"crushed	1/c	.19
		15/16	Butter	16c	.15
		1	Flask		.10
		1/6 Gl	Vinegar		.06
April 4, 1857		1	Collar & Hedkf		. 38
			Chd. in Act.		**1.16**

Alex Di Armond being duly sworn does say on his oath that he knows the above act. to be just and true

Alex Di Armond

Subscribed and sworn to this 6st day of April 1858 before

Eming Smead

Notary Public

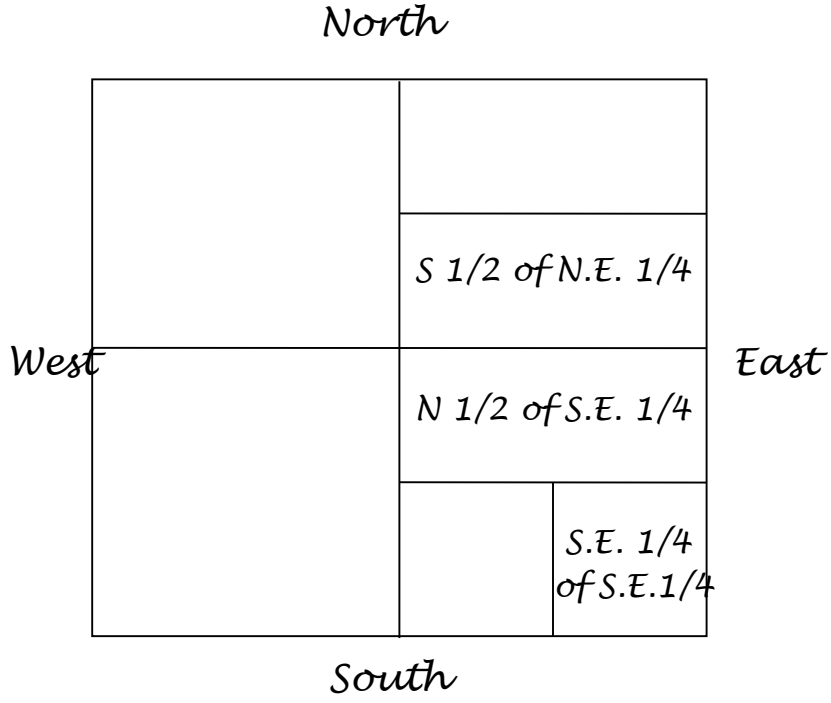
Attachment 9

Dayton Mich. Sept 26/58

Judge ,Fish
Dear Sir

There were no biders (sic) at the sail (sic). I have adjarne (sic) the sail (sic)six weeks from Satorday (sic) whitch (sic) will be the 6th of Novermber.

N. B. there is a mistake in the discription (sic)of the land. It is N 1/2, S.E. 1/4 & S 1/2, N.E. 1/4 and S.E. 1/4 of the S.E. 1/4



Yours with Respect

I gave Mr. James Wilson and
he says that this is Wright(sic) Bill Redding

Note: The above correction was apparently entered on the INVENTORY document as a footnote. However, I believe that this correction given by Mr. Redding is itself incorrect. The original description in the INVENTORY document appears correct. J.L.Wirth, 2/20/96

Attachment 10

Mr. William Graves and Charles B. Benedict, in consideration of the sum of One hundred and twenty dollars, to us in hand paid by Peter Wrath, of Medina County in the State of Ohio, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby apign, transfer, convey, and set over, unto the said Peter Wrath, so much of a certain Mortgage & note accompanying the same Made and Executed by J. Gottliebe Wirth and A. Mary Wirth his wife. to George W Housden, dated the 6th day of November A.D., 1856 Recorded in Book "G" of Mortgages in Pages 802 & 803, Nov 21, 1856. And by said George W Housden apigned to Samuel S Hunt, said opignment dated February 8th A.D. 1858, and by said Sameul S. Hunt apigned to us. And we do authorize said Peter Wrath, in our name or otherwise, but at his own cash and charges, to collect and obtain payment of the same, and we consent that there is now owing for principal upon the said Bond and Mortgage, so apigned to us, the sum of One hundred and twenty dollars, and interest from the sixth day of November 1856, and that we are the owners thereof, and have good right to sell the same.

Signed in the presence of
Frank Graves Wm. Graves
Benjamin Fish
C. B Benedict

State of Michigan
County of Berrien ss. On this Eighteenth day of December AD, 1858, before me as Notary Public in and for said County came William Graves and Charles B. Benidict and acknowleged the above apignment to be their per Act and deed

Attachment 11

CONFIRMATION OF SALE Printed and sold by R. H. Finley, Griswold Street, Detroit

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF *Berrien*

At a session of the Probate Court for said County, held at the office of the Judge thereof, on *Tuesday* the *1st* day of *March* in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty *nine* Present *Benjamin F. Fish* Judge of Probate

In the matter of the Estate of *John G. Wirth deceased*

LICENSE to sell the Real Estate of *John G. Wirth deceased*
having been on the *25th* day of *June* A.D. 1858, by an order of said Probate Court, duly granted to *Benjamin M. Redding, Administrator of the Estate* of said *deceased* and a certified copy of said order having been delivered to *Benjamin M. Redding Administrator* as aforesaid:

Now comes into Court the said *Benjamin M. Redding Administrator* as aforesaid, and makes return of *his* proceedings upon the order aforesaid, for the sale of said Real Estate, to *Benjamin F. Fish* the said Judge of Probate, from which it appears that the following described Real Estate, to wit: *The South East Quarter of the South East Quarter and the North East Quarter of the South East Quarter of Section Thirty, Town. Seven, South of Range Nineteen West. Eighty Acres*

The 1st named sold for 240$
The last named sold for 210$
450$

was on the *4th* day of *February* A.D. 1859, sold to *Jacob Roth of Liverpool Medina County Ohio* for the sum of *Four Hundred and Fifty dollars* notice of which said sale was previously posted up in three of the most public places in the township of *Wesaw* being the township in which said land is situated, and published in the *Niles Inquirer* a newspaper printed in said Couty of *Berrien*, for at least six weeks successively next before said sale, as appears by said return and the affidavits accompanying the same; and the said *Benjamin M. Redding* having on the *13th* day of *July* A.D. 1858 taken and subscribed an oath in due form as required by law previous to said sale, and having given bond as in said license directed, which has been duly approved by said Judge of Probate, and the said Judge of Probate having fully examined said proceedings, from which it appears that said sale was legally made and fairly conducted, and that the sum bid for said *Parsels or* pieces of land above described was not disproportionate to the value thereof.

It is, therefore, Ordered, Adjudged and Decreed, that said sale as above made be and same is hereby CONFIRMED. *And it is further Ordered, Adjudged and Decreed,* that a conveyance of the above described premises be executed by the said *Benjamin M. Redding Administrator* as aforesaid, to *Jacob Roth* the purchaser thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Probate Court, at *Berrien* this *1st* day of *March* A..D. 1859

Benjamin F. Fish
Judge of Probate

Attachment 12

Niles Inquirer -- Niles, Michigan -- March 24, 1859 -- Page 4

PROBATE NOTICE: -- State of Michigan, County of Berrien, ss. At a session of the Probate Court for the county of Berrien, holden at the Probate office in the village of Berrien, on Tuesday, the first day of March, in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty nine.

Present, Benjamin F. Fish, Judge of Probate.

In the matter of the estate of John J. Wirth, deceased.

On reading and filing the petition duly verified of Benjamin M. Redding, the administrator of said estate, praying that his first and final administration account of said estate this day filed in this court may be examined and allowed. Thereupon it is ordered that Friday the 18th day of March, 1859, at ten o'clock in the forenoon be assigned for the hearing of said petition, and that the heirs at law of said deceased, and all other persons interested in said estate are required to appear at a session of said court then to be holden at the probate office in the village of Berrien, and show cause if any there be, why the prayer of the petitioner should not be granted. And it is further ordered that said petitioner give notice to the persons interested in said estate, of the pendency of said petition, and the hearing thereof, by causing a copy of this order to be published in the Niles Inquirer, a newspaper printed and circulating in said county of Berrien, for two successive weeks previous to said day of hearing.

BENJAMIN F. FISH
Judge of Probate

Anna Marie Roth | 1831-1912

ANNA MARIE ROTH[2], known for most of her life as Mary, was born in or near Rhine, Germany on September 18, 1831[3]. When only one year old, she, her brother Peter, and her parents Jacob and Anna Mary Roth, emigrated from Germany to the USA. They made their way to Ohio sometime between 1832 and 1835, and settled into farm life first in Brunswick Township and finally in the northeast corner of Liverpool Township, Medina County, Ohio[4]. The nearest town was then called Salt Springs and was about 2 miles east of their Liverpool farm. It is located about 20 miles southwest from the present city of Cleveland, Ohio.

When they arrived in about 1832, the area was essentially virgin wilderness. The first permanent settler in the Liverpool Township, Salt Springs area is believed to have been Sebra Bronson, Jr. of Columbia, Ohio who, in 1810, settled in Salt Springs Town (later Marysville and now Hardscrabble). This town is located about a mile north of the present town of Valley City in the north-central portion of the Township. It is located on bottom land of the meandering Rocky River and was surrounded then by gently rolling and heavily forested land. Other portions were settled later with the first settler in the northeastern portion, where Mary and her family finally settled, coming in 1824. Many German settlers came in the 1830-1832 time period and most settled in the southwestern part of Liverpool Township although the Roth family settled ultimately in the northeastern section[5].

The Liverpool Township was created in 1816 and named after Liverpool, England, because of the similar findings of salt wells in the two locations. These wells, which were responsible for the nucleation of the village of Salt Springs Town, provided the much needed salt for the Indians and the early settlers in the area. After Salt Spring Town was surveyed in 1837, it was renamed Marysville and grew quickly with the introduction of a storehouse, post office, grist mills, a doctor, etc. Thus, the Roths probably came to a virgin territory with developing towns and forested, rolling land surrounding the river bottoms. Much hard work was required to clear the land and then settle down to farming.

A few documents from the early days of the Roth family in Ohio have been found. At this writing, the family has not been found in the 1840 census but appears in the 1850 census under the surname Rhodes[6].

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[2] The information contained herein was obtained from census and other reference material obtained by Carol Wirth-Metz, Guy Wirth, Gary Wirth, and John Wirth, the great-great grandchildren of Anna Marie and through oral history from Clarence Wirth, her great grandchild.

[3] See obituary of Anna Marie Behner, Nee Roth.

[4] See footnotes below dealing with real estate purchases by the Roth family in the 1840s and 1850s.

[5] Valley City and Liverpool Township Commemorative Book, published by Valley City Sesqui, Inc., 1962. Reference # R977.135, B24 in the Medina Co. District Library, 210 S. Broadway, Medina, OH 44256.

[6] There has been considerable confusion over Anna Marie's surname. The author's sister, Carol Wirth-Metz, believed that it was Rhodes, based upon her research conducted in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Audio recording of Clarence Wirth in 1974 also indicate that her name was Rhodes as does Anna Marie's death record. However, there is a great body of facts which indicate that her surname was Roth. Foremost is the obituary of her last husband, Gottlieb Behner, which clearly indicates it to be Roth. In addition, the maiden name of her sister Barbara Keller of Three Oaks was Roth as indicated in her obituary. There are then the marriage records of sisters Philippina

1850 census of Liverpool Township, Medina County, OH

Jacob Rhodes, 50, Farmer, $2300 estate, born Germany
Mary, 50, born Germany
Peter, 20, Farmer, born Germany
Mary, 19, born Ohio
Lucy, 13, born Ohio
Jacob, 12, born Ohio
Catharine, 10, born Ohio
Phebe, 7, born Ohio

Several real estate transactions recorded concerning Jacob Roth and his wife Anna Mary Roth have been found. Copies of two of these deeds are given in chapter ROTH. On August 12, 1833, Jacob Roth purchased from Bill Freese 57 1/4 acres in Brunswick Township, Lot 21[7]. On August 30, 1842, Jacob Roth purchased from Henry Woodward 80 acres in Twp. 4 (Liverpool), Tract (or section) 6; and on the same day sold to Henry Woodward 67 ½ acres in Brunswick Township, Lot 20[8]. This is believed to be the time when they moved from Brunswick to Liverpool Townships. Then, on February 9, 1852, Jacob Roth et. al. purchased 43 acres in Liverpool Township from H. T. Woodward[9]. It is curious to note that the texts of these deeds refer to the surname Roth while the signatures appear more like ROLF. It is believed that this discrepancy derives from the written use of the older German Zitterling[10] script wherein a trailing "h" is written much like a script "f" is written today.

In 1849, at the age of 18 yrs., Mary joined the Evangelical Association faith. This religious group was very active among the German emigrants, prospering in the 1800s and then declining in the early 1900s and merging into the United Brethren and finally the United Methodist faith. The group was formed in about 1800 by Jacob Albright (1759-1808), who was raised as a Lutheran. He became concerned that the German emigrants in the frontier did not have access to churches or ministers and were straying away from the church. In the late 1700s after a family tragedy, he was befriended by Methodist neighbors. He was attracted to the Methodist Church's philosophical approaches, but it was entirely English in background and did not afford a good home for the Germanic settlers who spoke German almost exclusively. He also became concerned that the traditional Lutheran message was not sufficiently uplifting and engaging to bring these struggling people into the fold. He therefore developed a more positive message of a holy and happy life for the believer, and developed a more demonstrative service with much

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and Katharine, both Roths. Audio recordings of the author's sister suggests that she may have uncovered the Rhodes name by searching the Medina Co., OH census in 1850 for a person with the right given name, age, and family structure, and made a leap of faith. There was a Rhodes family which showed in the 1850 census which had the right structure and lived in the very same area. The only unsettling part about the Roth assignation is that this family has not been identified in the 1840 or 1850 census of that area. It appears that the surnames Roth and Rhodes were sometimes interchanged due to the Germanic pronunciation of Roth. In German, the trailing "h" is silent and the "t" has a very hard sound to the English ear leading to Roth coming out more like Rot or Road

[7] Deed Index of Medina Co., Volume G, Page 337

[8] Deed Index of Medina Co., Volume T, Pages 437 and 438, recorded on LDS film # 0475509.

[9] Deed Index of Medina Co., Volume 2, Page 424, recorded on LDS Film # 0477130

[10] Personal communication with Karl Buttner, approximate age 65, naturalized German emigrant.

participation during the service by the congregation. Thus, Albright and his followers created a new church which embodied much of the Lutheran principles, but with a less stoic and more demonstrative approach. The word was spread through the frontier by itinerant ministers or circuit riders who would travel for a month at a time, holding services in private homes, holding revival-type general meetings, signing up class leaders, etc. It was a very demanding and strenuous life[11]. Gottlieb Behner was one of these circuit-riding clergymen[12]. He played a very important role in Anna Marie's life.

In 1851, at the age of 20 yrs., Mary married John Gottlieb Wirth. At this writing, little is known about him or his background, or where they lived after their marriage. Their union bore two sons in Ohio; John Franklin Wirth, born on September 26, 1853, and Henry R. Wirth, born on March 3, 1855. The Wirth family then moved to the Dayton, Michigan area in 1855. It is believed that they were accompanied on this move to MI by Mary's older brother, Peter Roth, his wife and one son since their other children were born in MI as indicated in the 1860 census of Medina Co., OH. Also, Peter Roth's wife, Catharine, is a witness of the loan taken by Wirth when he purchased the Wirth farm. It is possible that they lived in or near the Wilson Community located about 2 miles west of Dayton in Galien Township, Berrien Co., MI.

As suggested by author Gary Wirth, the Wilson Community location is suspected for several reasons. First, John G. Wirth's probate file shows that he died in Galien Township. Second, his probate file shows that the appraisers of his estate were Nathanial Wilson and James H. Wilson. James H. Wilson was the founder of the Wilson Community. He settled there in 1836 and built a saw mill in 1837, the first in Galien Township[13]. Third, Wirth's probate shows that he was in debt to the DiArmond store in Dayton. Finally, the Wilson Community contained several tenant houses that were used by employees of Wilson's which, since there is no record of Wirth owning his own home or property in Galien Township, could have been used by the Wirth family in 1855 and 1856. These observations indicate that the Wirth family must have lived in the vicinity of the Wilson Community. It is also possible that Wirth worked for Wilson in one of his several enterprises.

The Wilson Community arose around the Wilson sawmill and relied heavily on marketing forest products. After the Michigan Central Railroad came through in 1848, Wilson established a siding and sold ties for constructing the railways and wood fuel for the locomotives. They sold Michigan swamp elm trees to Chicago for their parks. The nearby swamp also yielded very straight pine logs which, after having a hole bored through their length, provided piping for Chicago's first water system. The Wilson Community flourished for several decades, rivaling Dayton in size[12]. It declined rapidly in the 1860s, however, as the forests in the nearby area were logged out and the need for their products declined.

The town of Dayton nucleated near the location of a farm, saw mill, and grist mill built by Benjamin M. Redding in 1831. Redding came to the area from nearby Indiana shortly after the

[11] The Evangelical Association Church in Ohio, Roy B. Leedy, Published by the Ohio Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren Church, 1969.
[12] Ibid
[13] Newspaper article by Frank Noggle in Berrien Co. Record, Date unknown but about 1940.

Indians ceded the land to the USA Government in the Carey Mission Treaty of 1828. A settlement called Redding's Mill grew up around the small river and the farm. The Michigan Central Railroad came through in 1848 and the settlement's name was changed to Dayton[14]. The major products were initially from the nearby forests and later from the farms on Terre Coupe Prairie with produce taken to local markets and those towns along the railroad from Detroit to Chicago[12]. Dayton exists today but is essentially a residential community.

On November 6, 1856, John and Mary bought a 200 acre farm in Weesaw Township, Berrien County, Michigan[15]. The property was first purchased from the USA Government in October, 1835 after being deeded from the Native Americans (Miami tribe) in the Carey Mission Treaty of 1828. The property then passed through several owners before being owned by Edward Housden[16]. The Wirth's then purchased the property from Housden. The value of the purchase was about $1500 as indicated in the Wirth probate file, but a mortgage of only $280 was obtained through George W. Housden, probably related to the owner.

It is unlikely that John, Mary (Anna Marie) and her family ever lived on this farm during this time because John G. Wirth died the following spring on or about April 1, 1857. However, since they arrived in the area in 1855, it is possible that John began clearing the property before purchasing it and could have erected a small log cabin in 1855 or 1856. In addition, it is possible that there was an inhabitable house already on the property at that time in which they could have lived. This supposition is based on artifacts found on the farm and family lore that indicate that prior owners, thought to be Martin and Caleb Boots, had built some type of house - probably a log cabin - on the property in the period 1838 to 1849. However, the John G. Wirth probate file indicates that he died in Galien Township, rather than in Weesaw Township where the farm was located. The probate process, with Benjamin Redding acting as Administrator, divided the farm into two parcels: an 80 acre parcel that was purchased by Jacob Roth of Liverpool, Medina Co. Ohio and a 120 acre parcel, the mortgage to which of $120 was assumed by Peter Wrath (Roth??[17]) of Medina Co., and $160 was assumed by Mathew Paddock, William Graves and C. Benedict of Berrien Co., Michigan.

After the death of her husband, John Gottlieb Wirth, Mary (Anna Marie) and her two children returned to Ohio and lived with her father as shown in the 1860 census.

1860 Census of Liverpool Township, Medina County, OH

Roth (Ruth), Jacob, age 60, farmer, $3500 property, $600, born Bavaria
Kate, age 19, born Ohio
Jacob, age 20, farm hand, born Ohio
Mary Worth, age 27, born Bavaria
John Worth, age 6, born Ohio

[14] History of Berrien and Van Buren Counties, Franklin Ellis, 1880, published by D. W. Ensign & Co., Philadelphia, Penn.
[15] Probate file # 383 for John G. Wirth dated February 16, 1858 and on file with the Berrien County, MI, Probate Court.
[16] Title search record obtained by Clarence Wirth and retained in the Wirth files on the MI farm.
[17] This name may refer to Peter Roth rather than Wrath. The author has not been able to establish the existence of a Wrath through census or title searches, or through any financial transaction with Mary Roth-Vetter.

Henry Worth, age 5, born Ohio

According to the 1860 census[18], an 1857 plot map[19] of the area and real estate purchase records, this farm was owned by the her father, Jacob Roth, age 60 in 1860. He is probably the same person who bought the 80 acre parcel of the Wirth estate in 1859 for $450. In 1860, the census indicates that this Ohio farm is occupied by Roth, a younger Jacob Roth (age 20), a Katherine Roth (age 19), Mary Wirth and her two sons John and Henry. Katharine and Jacob are probably Mary's sister and brother, respectively. Marriage records indicate that Katharine later married John Brown (Also spelled Braun) of Lorain Co., Black River Twp., OH[20] and Jacob Jr. married Elizabeth Towney on February 12, 1864[21]. The authors also believe that Mary had an older brother Peter Roth, an older sister Barbara A. Roth, and a younger sister Philippina. Peter is found living in the same area in the 1860 census with wife Catharine Bidle-Roth who he married on December 21, 1854[22]. Interestingly, the census indicates that of their four children, two were born in MI in 1856 and 1857, the same years that John G. Wirth and Mary were in MI. There is also a record of Philippina marrying Christian Riesinger on February 22, 1864[23]. Barbara Roth married Frederick J. Keller in 1849[24] and is shown on the 1887 plat map living in Weesaw Township about 2 miles SE of the Wirth farm.

On September 16, 1861, Mary (Anna Marie) married Jacob Vetter[25], a widower with several children who resided in Black River Twp., Lorain Co., Ohio located near the town of Lorain on Lake Erie about 25 miles west of Cleveland, Ohio. They were married by Gottlieb F. Behner, the above-referenced Evangelical Association clergyman who lived only 0.9 miles west of Mary's parents farm from 1850 through 1860 and was probably known to her even earlier during her youth. As of this writing, the reason for her finding a husband in the Lorain area is unknown but ties with the Evangelical Association Church are strongly suspected. Gottlieb Behner was an Evangelical Association circuit rider who covered the Lorain area. A history of that area[26] indicates the Jacob Vetter was active in forming a class of this faith in the Lorain area. It is likely, therefore, that Behner knew of the widowed Jacob Vetter and served as a matchmaker. It is also probable that he served to unite Mary's sister, Katharine (Louise??), and her future husband, John Brown, who was also a member of the same Evangelical Association Church as Jacob Vetter, according to this Lorain area history. John Brown and Katharine lived for a short time in Michigan only 2 miles south of the Wirth farm on what is now known as the Payne farm.

Mary's second husband, Jacob Vetter (b ~1804, d 9/29/1875), was considerably older than Mary and had at least four children with his first wife Christina (b ~ 1806): John (b~1823), Catherine

[18] See 1860 Federal Census for Medina Co., Liverpool Twp., Pages 34 and 59.
[19] See 1859 Plat Map of Medina Co., OH.
[20] Marriage Records for Medina Co., OH, Vol. C, Page 434.
[21] Marriage Records for Medina Co., OH, Vol. C, Page 445.
[22] Marriage Records for Medina Co., OH, Vol. B, Page 466.
[23] Marriage Records for Medina Co., OH, Vol. C, Page 449.
[24] Obituary of Barbara A. Roth, Three Oaks Acorn, April, 1915
[25] Marriage Records for Medina Co., OH, Vol. C, Page 330.
[26] History of Lorain Co., OH, 1879, published by William Brothers. Page 334.

(b~1832), Sophia (b~1839), and Jerome (b~1846)[27]. In the 1850 census, Jacob's is shown living in the town of Lorain, OH and has an occupation of shoemaker. While still residing in Ohio, Jacob and Mary had a son Frank W. Vetter (b. 7/12/1861, d. 3/18/1894)[28]. The birth date of Frank given here is derived from the date on his headstone. However, a ledger kept by the Wirth family indicates he was 31 years, 8 months and 6 days old when he died, making his birth year 1862. Otherwise, Frank was born before Mary and Jacob were married.

Sometime between the birth of Frank and the birth of their next children, twins Mary and Sarah (b 10/26/1864)[29], the Vetters moved from Ohio to the 80 acre parcel of the Wirth estate in Michigan. They then had one more child, George (b.~1867, d.~ 1879). The 1870 census[30] of Weesaw Twp., Berrien Co. MI shows this family living with Mary's first two children John and Henry Wirt (Wirth?). Also, in 1865, they acquired ownership of the 80 acre parcel of the Wirth estate[31], by buying it from Jacob Roth and wife Elizabeth for $500. Mary also retained ownership of the other 120 acre parcel of the Wirth estate by paying off the mortgage assumed by Peter Wrath (Peter Roth??), and Mathew Paddock and C. Benedict[32].

In 1870, the Anna Marie's family was composed of the two Wirth boys plus her children by Jacob Vetter; Frank, Mary, Sarah, and George as shown below:

1870 Federal Census of Weesaw Township, Berrien Co., Michigan.

Vetter, Jacob, age 66, farmer, $500 property, $200 personal, born Prussia
Mary, age 31, keeps house, born Prussia
Frank, age 8, born Ohio
Mary, age 5, born Michigan
Sarah, age 5, born Michigan
Geo., age 3, born Michigan
Wort, Jno, age 16, born Ohio
Henry, age 15, born Ohio

In 1876, her eldest son John returned to the Lorain area and married Rose Raven[33]. They settled on the 120 acre portion of the original Wirth farm. The ownership of this parcel was originally divided between Mary, John and Henry, but was ultimately deeded to John after Henry R. Wirth died in 1883[34] .

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[27] See 1850 (Page 739) and 1860 (Page 298) Federal Census of Lorain Co., OH to establish birth year of Jacob Vetter and family member names and approximate birth years.
[28] Based upon tombstone inscription in New Troy Cemetery, New Troy, MI
[29] Obituary of Mary Vetter-Beckwith of Payette, ID, which indicates that she was born in MI on October 26, 1864, died August 28, 1942. She married Truman Judson Beckwith on December 7, 1881in MI, moved then to Indiana, North Dakota, and finally to Payette, Idaho in 1899.
[30] 1870 Federal Census of Weesaw Twp., Berrien County, MI, Page 475
[31] Bill of Sale between Jacob Vetter and Jacob and L. Elizabeth Roth dated March 2, 1865 and in the Wirth family records retained on the family farm in MI.
[32] Receipts for payment to the last two named individuals are in the Wirth family records and dated February, 1888.
[33] Marriage Record of Lorain Co., OH showing marriage occurring on January 6, 1876.
[34] Henry R. Wirth died on July 15, 1883 as indicated in his probate file # 10781, Berrien Co., MI Probate Court.

Jacob Vetter died on September 29, 1875[35]. Mary stayed in Michigan with her remaining family of four children; Henry, Frank, Mary and Sarah. Her youngest son, George, had also died. Later, on February 2, 1882, Mary married her third husband, August R. Peldewitz[36]. Peldewitz' occupation was listed as blacksmith. They were married in Weesaw Twp., probably in New Troy or on the Vetter farm, and the witnesses were Andrew and Catherine Froeschle of New Troy, MI. Peldewitz lived at 1019 west Division St. in South Bend, Indiana, having come there in 1880 from Medaryville, Indiana. He was a widower whose wife died in 1881 from complications of a leg amputation[37]. In 1885, Peldewitz, then listed as a teamster, fell off a load of wood and broke his leg. During his recovery, however, he succumbed to heart disease and died on March 25, 1885[38,39].

After the death of Peldewitz, Mary returned again to Ohio. There, in 1887, she married for the fourth time to a widowed minister, Gottlieb F. Behner[40], the same minister who lived nearby her earlier home and who officiated at her marriage to Jacob Vetter. Rev. Behner, a native of Germany, appears in the 1850 census[41] of Liverpool Twp., Medina Co., Ohio, along with his wife Catherine (b ~ 1820, d 4/10/1884[42]) and their children Fred (b ~ 1840), Catherine (b ~ 1843) and Louisa (b ~ 1848). This same family is shown in the 1860 census of that same location[43] but with the addition of another child, Ezra, who later also became an Evangelical Association clergyman. It is likely that Mary and Rev. Behner knew each other when Mary was growing up and there is a possibility that he was a minister in her church or at least a neighboring church.

At this writing, no official documentation of the marriage of Mary and Rev. Behner has been uncovered. However, the photograph shown here is believed to be their marriage photo. It was taken by a photographer from Medina, OH. The man in the photo has been identified by the authors as Gottlieb F. Behner from other photos published in documents of the Evangelical Association. The original copy of this photo is in the possession of the

[35] Data comes from Jacob Vetter's probate file # 1312, Berr
the New Troy Cemetery appears to be incorrect.
[36] Marriage Records for Berrien Co., MI, Page 77.
[37] South Bend Weekly Tribune, April 30, 1881
[38] South Bend Weekly Tribune, circa March 25, 1885
[39] Peldewitz probate file, St. Joseph Co., Indiana
[40] Obituary of Gottlieb Behner, Evangelical Messenger, May 3, 1905.
[41] 1850 Federal Census of Liverpool Twp., Medina Co., OH, Page 766.
[42] Record of inscriptions for the Myrtle Hill Cemetery, Liverpool Twp., Medina Co., OH
[43] 1860 Federal Census of Liverpool Twp., Medina Co., OH.

Bridgeford family, descendants of Herbert Wirth, grandson of Mary Roth-Wirth-Vetter-Peldewitz-Behner. This photo and a second one shown below are the only known photographs of Anna Marie (Mary) Roth.

Probable Wedding Photograph of
Anna Marie Roth and Gottlieb F. Behner
Circa 1887

There is a handwritten notation on the photograph indicating that someone may have thought the woman was Julia Wallace, also a grandmother of Otis and Herbert Wirth. However, the presence of Behner in the photograph as well as other documented photographs of Julia disproves that suggestion.

Mary is shown living with Rev. Behner in the 1900 census of Medina County as follows:

1900 census of Medina Co., Liverpool Township, OH

Behner, Gottlieb F., born Sept. 1818, 81, married 13 yrs., born Germany, parents born Germany, entered USA 1833, in USA 67 yrs.
Mary, born Sept. 1831, 68, married 13 yrs., born Germany, parents born Germany, entered USA 1832, in USA 68 yrs.

Rev. Behner died on April 16, 1905 and is buried with his first wife Catherine in Myrtle Hill Cemetery in Liverpool Twp. Mary then returned to Michigan to live with her eldest and only surviving son John Franklin Wirth. John had worked the 120 acre parcel of the Wirth estate and had built a log cabin and a pole barn, and then later a modern granary (1893), barn (1898) and large farm house (1905)[44]. The photograph below shows the family of John F. Wirth in the early fall of 1905. The date is established by the age of Hazel Wirth, the infant in the photo. Hazel, the first child of Herbert Wirth and Clara Morley-Wirth, was born on May 24, 1905, suggesting that the photo was taken in about August, 1905. In addition, the photo could not have been taken more than 6 months later since John F. Wirth died on April 12, 1906.

[44] Family oral history as recalled by Clarence Wirth, circa 1970.

In the above photograph, Mary is shown holding Hazel Wirth with Clara and Herbert Wirth looking over her shoulder. Rose (Rosa) E. Raven-Wirth is in the center above and to the left of her husband John F. Wirth, seated. John F. was probably very ill from pneumonia when the photo was taken. On the right side of the photo are Otis Wirth and his wife Rosemond Smith-Wirth, seated. The positive identification of Mary and the others was provided by Jess Beckwith, her grandson.

After John Franklin died in 1906[45], Mary then lived on with her grandson Otis C. Wirth and his wife and family until her death on June 21, 1912. She slept in the same room occupied by the two of the authors many years later. She is buried in New Troy Cemetery, New Troy Michigan[46]. She was survived by sisters Louise (Katharine??) Brown of Lorain, Ohio, Mrs. Barbara Roth-Keller of Three Oaks, MI, and Mrs. P. Riesinger of Columbus, Ohio. She was also survived by two daughters: Mrs. Mary Beckwith of Payette, ID and Mrs. Sarah Hauger of South Bend, Ind.

OBITUARY OF ANNA MARIE ROTH: Three Oaks Acorn, June 27, 1912

[45] Probate file # 3909 for John F. Wirth, Berrien Co., MI, Probate Court.
[46] Tombstone inscriptions in New Troy Cemetery, New Troy, MI

Mary Behner was born at Rhine, Germany, Sept. 18, 1831, and departed from this life on June 21, 1912 at the home of her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Wirth, age 80 years 9 months, 3 days.

With her parents she came to United States in 1832 locating in Medina Co. Ohio. In the year 1851 she was united in marriage to Gottlieb Wirth, thence coming to Dayton, Mich. in 1855. They resided there until the death of her husband in 1857. She returned to Ohio and was married to Gottlieb Behner in 1887, his death occurring in April 1905.

She leaves to mourn her loss, two daughters, Mary Beckwith of Payette, Idaho, and Mrs. Sarah Hauger of South Bend, Ind.; four sisters, Mrs. Barbara Keller of Three Oaks, Mrs. Louise Brown of Lorain, O. and Mrs. P. Riesinger of Columbus, O.; thirteen grandchildren, and ten great grandchildren. Four sons and one daughter have preceded her to the great beyond.

Mrs. Behner was loved by all who knew her, having a patient and kind disposition. At an early age she embraced Christ, uniting with the Evangelical church at the age of 18. To the end she continued loyal to her firm belief in the Supreme Ruler and is now ready to receive her reward.

Jacob Vetter | 1804-1875

Jacob and Christina Herweg-Vetter, and children John and Catharine, immigrated from Herzfeld, Hesse Cassel, Germany to the USA in 1833. They arrived at New London, Connecticut and lived for a few years in Norwich, Conn. In Norwich, Jacob was influenced greatly by William Gilman who espoused a "Pilgrim Ideal," which apparently spurred Jacob to move westward into the opening frontiers. Later, Jacob and family moved to Charleston, OH and subsequently to Black River (now Lorain) OH[47].

Jacob and Christina were much involved in church activities. Two histories of the Lorain County area identify them as founding members of Evangelical Association churches in the Black River area (the first quote below) and later in the Amherst Twp. area (the second quote below). The Vetter surname is also mentioned in a general description of Black River Township in the third quote below.

> *"EVANGELICAL CHURCH*
>
> *There was an organization in this denomination many years ago, in the northwest part of the township. The society built a meeting house on the farm of George Drudy. The church was subsequently disbanded and the meeting house sold, most of the members uniting with a similar society at North Amherst. The rest of the members continued their meetings, usually holding them at the log house of the widow Brown, in Lorain, and in a few years organized the present church and erected a building which cost $600 or $700. The members were* ***Jacob Vedder*** *& wife, Mrs. Mary Brown and son and daughter (John and Elizabeth) and a few others whose names cannot now be recalled."* The History of Lorain County, Ohio" published in 1879, Page 211, Williams Brothers
>
> *"CHURCH OF THE EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION*
>
> *This German church was established in 1845. The presiding elder was J. G. Zinger and the constituent members were J. G. Theuer, Adam Holl, Phil Rau, John Beck, Philip Beal, John Holzhauer,* ***Jacob Vetter,*** *George Miller and George Hosenfplug. The new church was established in 1864 and the building was brought from Brownhelm. This Church is in the village of North Amherst but*

[47] The information for this paragraph comes from letters by son John Vetter recorded in the Oberlin College archives transcribed in a companion chapter entitled The Vetter Line.

has a branch on South Ridge Road." The History of Lorain County" published in 1879, Page 334, Williams Brothers

"As of the later settlers, Mr. W. H. Root writes: "Up to the year 1830, little or no settlement was made in this township away from Lake Rd., and but few in the S. E. corner of town. The unsettled portion was a dense wilderness, covered principally by white oak timber when the sturdy Germans began its settlement in the year 1833. They did not come in one month or one year, but their numbers increased rapidly, and wherever they went they made their mark, and their mark is plain to be seen at the present time. I will name a few of these pioneers as I remember them and able to write out their names: C. L. Farber, Baunhaets, Jacobs, Friends, Barks, Haulsaure, Hagerman, Hauns, ***Vetter****, Harwick and others."* History of Lorain Co., Black River Township, Page 210, Williams Brothers

Jacob and family are identified in the 1850 census of OH, (Lorain Co., Black River Twp.), page 739, as summarized below:

Vetter, Jacob; age 46; male; occupation shoemaker; born in Germany

Christina; age 44; housewife; born in Germany

John; age 27; male; laborer; born in Germany

Catharine; age 18, female; born in Germany

Sophia; age 11; female; born in OH

Jerome; age 6; male; born in OH

Data in the 1860 census of OH (Lorain Co., Black River Twp., page 298) suggests that sometime between 1850 and 1860, wife Christina dies and children John and Catharine move on with their lives as discussed in chapter The Vetter Line. The burial location of Christina is not known at the time of this writing but it is probably in the Black River or Amherst Twp. areas of Lorain Co. A summary of this 1860 census is below:

Vetter, Jacob; age 55; male; born in England

Sophia; age 21; female; born in OH

Jerome; age 16; male; born in OH

A curiosity in this census data is the entry in the household just above the entry for Jacob. It includes two other Vetter children; Jacob age 11 and Mary age 12. The

relationship, if any, of these young people to the subject of this study is not known. However, they are shown as born in England and that assignment is extended (ditto marks) to "our" Jacob Vetter as indicated above. These Vetter children are not mentioned again in any documents pertaining to Jacob or his children.

After the death of Christina, Jacob then marries Anna Marie (Mary) Roth-Wirth[48], the widow of John Gottlieb Wirth, on September 17, 1861[49]. It is not clear how these two people became acquainted but there are two theories. First, it is possible that Mary's family (the Jacob Roth family) and the Vetter family knew each other in Germany since it is known that both immigrated to the USA in the same timeframe, the Vetter's in 1833 and the Roth's in 1832[50]. However, there was a great deal of immigration from Germany during this time frame. An alternate and more probable theory concerns the Evangelical Association Church. Mary joined this church in Medina Co., Liverpool Twp. in 1848[51] and a clergyman of this faith, Gottlieb F. Behner, lived only a mile or so from her parent's farm[52]. Behner was an itinerant minister who serviced the Black River area[53] during the 1850s and would have known that Jacob's wife and Mary's husband had both died. He could have easily been the match-maker as suggested by the fact that he performed the marriage of Jacob Vetter and Mary Wirth[54].

Sometime in the early 1860s, Jacob and his new wife moved from Black River or Liverpool, OH area to the farm purchased in 1856 by Mary's first husband John G. Wirth. This farm is located in Berrien Co., Weesaw Twp., MI[55]. They settled on an 80 acre parcel of the original 200 acre Wirth farm and set about raising a family of their own. Their first child, Frank (b. 7/12/1862, d. 3/18/1894)[56], was born in Ohio before they emigrated to Michigan, but their remaining children, twins Mary (b. 10/26/1864, d. 8/28/1942) and Sarah (b.10/26/1864, d. ?), and son George (b. ~1867,d. 1/3/1879)[57] were born in Michigan. There may have been another child born to the Vetter's, perhaps a son Georgie who died in infancy, since in the 1900 census[58] Mary

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[48] Anna Marie Roth-Wirth is the great-great-grandmother of the author.
[49] Marriage records of Medina Co., OH
[50] Immigration dates are contained in the notes of John Vetter (The Vetter Line) and the obituary of Mary Roth-Vetter-Peldewitz-Behner.
[51] Obituary of Mary Roth-Vetter-Peldewitz-Behner
[52] See the 1857 plat map of Liverpool Twp., Medina Co., OH for location of Roth and Behner farms.
[53] See the Evangelical Church in Ohio, Roy B. Leedy, 1959, and Chapter Gottlieb F. Behner
[54] Marriage records of Medina Co., OH
[55] Identified as E ½ of SE Quarter of Section 30 of South Range 19 West, deeded from Jacob Roth to Jacob Vetter in 1865.
[56] The date of birth of Frank Vetter is in question. Tombstone information places it in 1861, before the marriage of Mary and Jacob but notes in a ledger by John F. Wirth gives the date shown here.
[57] George's date of birth is from census date only while his date of death is contained in the probate file of Jacob Vetter.
[58] See 1900 census of Medina Co., Liverpool Twp., OH in Chapter Anna Marie Roth

indicates that she bore 7 children; the above and the two Wirth children only account for 6 children.

The 1870 census of Berrien Co., Weesaw Twp., MI shows the Vetter family with their children and the children of Mary and her first husband John G. Wirth.

Vetter, Jacob; age 66; White/Male; Farmer; born in Prussia

Mary; age 31; White/Female; Housekeeper; born in Prussia

Frank; age 8; White/Male; born Ohio

Mary; age 5; W/F; born Michigan

Sarah; age 5; W/F; born Michigan

George; age 3; W/M; born Michigan

Wirt, John; age 16; W/M; born Ohio

Wirt, Henry; age 15; W/M; born Ohio

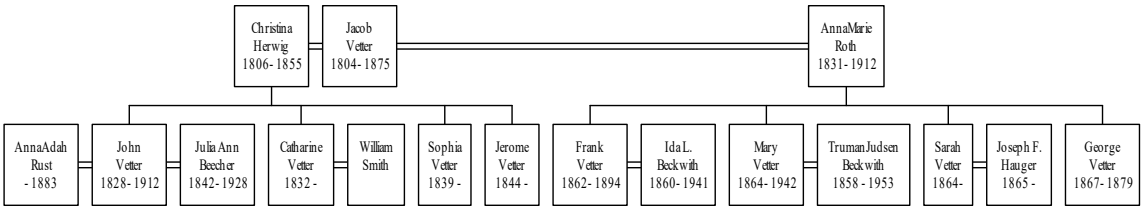
Jacob Vetter died on September 29, 1875 at age 71. A summary of his wills and other data from his probate file[59] is shown in the attachment.

It is difficult to deduce the character of Jacob Vetter from such a sketchy history but some observations seem apparent. He appears to have been a religious man from the character of his hand-written will and from his having been the founding member of two churches in OH and one in MI. He was also devoted to the further education of his children. His hand-written will, transcribed in the accompanying Attachment, indicates a strong desire for his children with Mary to attend Oberlin College as did his children by his first marriage. In addition, title summary data confirmed by plat maps of Weesaw Twp. and a history of Elm Valley School[60] indicate that in 1869 he deeded a corner lot of his farm to the township for the purpose of founding that school. Later, the school was moved and the land returned to his heirs[61]. As noted above, Jacob was also a founding member of an Evangelical Association church that was located about a mile from his farm on what is now Avery Road, a ¼ mile north of the intersection of Avery and Elm Valley Road.

A lineage chart of Jacob Vetter and his family is shown below:

[59] File 1312, Berrien Co., MI Probate archives
[60] A separate study of the Elm Valley School is contained in Folder "Special Studies."
[61] See the 1873 plat map of Berrien Co., Weesaw Twp. and the Title Summary for the Vetter farm.

Descendants of Jacob Vetter



The children of Jacob and his two wives are discussed in more detail in a chapter entitled The Vetter Line. In summary, John Vetter graduated from Oberlin College, became a chaplain of a black regiment in the Civil War and a served later as a minister in churches in Kansas and Missouri. One of John's daughters and her husband founded the Campfire Girls. Catharine Vetter married William Smith. A person by that name is found in the 1870 and 1880 census, but there is no guarantee that it is the right person. Sophia is found in the 1860 census, but is not mention in Jacob's will and has not been identified in later census. She is presumed to die without issue. Jerome also attended Oberlin College, was in the Civil War and is mentioned in Jacob's will dated 1874. He has not been found in later census information.

His children with Anna Marie are also discussed in more detail in chapter The Vetter Line. Frank married Ida Beckwith and had one child, George Guy Vetter[62]. Frank was an administrator of Elm Valley School until his death. Mary Vetter married Truman Beckwith and moved to Idaho. Sarah married Joseph Hauger, and raised a family in South Bend, IN. George Vetter died without issue.

[62] One of the authors, Guy Wirth, was named after G. Guy Vetter by his father Clarence Wirth who knew Guy Vetter.

Appendix

JACOB VETTER

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENTS

SUMMARY OF PROBATE FILE No. 1312

OF BERRIEN CO., MICHIGAN

The following paragraphs provide transcriptions of the two Last Will and Testaments found in the probate file of Jacob Vetter. The first is written in what appears to be Vetter's own hand and is dated December 2, 1873. It is written on the back of a paper with letterhead of a Thomas Moses of Windham, Ohio. Moses apparently sells hats, caps, hardware, crockery and produce. The second is in a more careful hand and is dated November 17, 1874. Jacob Vetter died on Wednesday, September 29, 1875 and is buried in New Troy Cemetery, New Troy, MI.

First Will and Testament

I, Jacob Vetter of Weesaw Township, Berrien County, Michigan, do make and publish my last will and testament.

Item 1: I give to the treasure of Foreign Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association of North America the sum of one hundred dollars, the same to be held in trust for the uses and purposes of said society.

Item 2: I give to Obirlin (SP?) College of Lorain County, Ohio, the sum of two hundred dollars subject to the following conditions; viz. that said college shall furnish tuition to the following persons the same being my children: Sarah Cornelia Vetter, Mary Lucinda Vetter, Frank W. and George when they shall have arrived at a suitable age and until they shall have completed their course of study.

Item 3: I give to my son Jerome A. Vetter the sum of fifty dollars.

Item 4: I give to my daughter Mrs. Catharine Smith the sum of fifty dollars.

Item 5: I give to my son John Vetter the sum of five dollars. (Transcribers Note: fifty dollars was scratched out)

Item 6: The remainder of my properties real and personal, after all my debts are paid, I give to my youngest children; viz. Mary Lucinda, Sarah Cornelia, Frank W. and George in equal shares.

Item 7: I do also devise that when my wife shall have married again after my decease she shall be dispossessed of all and every interest including dowry in my estate personal and real.

I do hereby appoint my son John Vetter of this my last will and testament and exonerate him from giving any bond on the same and from any inventory and appraisement of any property.

In testimony whereof, I have here to set my hand and seal this second day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy three.

(Signed) Jacob Vetter

Signed declared and published in our presence and by us in his presence and in presence of each other.

(Signed) Gerald M. Fuller

Ella M. Beardsly (SP?)

Witness to the above instrument

Second Will and Testament

In the name of God, Amen. I ,Jacob Vetter, of the Township of Weesaw, County of Berrien and State of Michigan, being of sound mind and memory, and considering the uncertainty of this frail and transitory life, do therefore, make ordain publish and declare this to be my last will and testament. First, I commit my soul to God who gave it, and my body to the Earth to be buried in a decent and Christian-like manner after my death. And as to such worldly goods and possessions with which God hath blessed me in this world, I will and direct that after all my lawful debts are paid and discharged, the residue of my Estate, real and personal, be disposed of as follows: First, my beloved wife Mary shall have and possess as her residence all the premises on which I now reside and shall have the income thereof to support herself and my hereinafter named minor children until my youngest son, George Vetter shall have attained to the age of twenty one years; (provided she, my said wife Mary remains my widow. In case of her marrying again she shall have no further claim on any part of my Estate from the date of such marriage.) Then, namely when said son, George Vetter, shall be twenty one years old, all my land with the appurtenances on which I now reside being Eighty (80) acres situated in the Township of Weesaw, County of Berrien and State of Michigan, shall go to my two sons, Frank W. Vetter and George Vetter with the lawful dowry of said wife Mary remaining therein (on condition of widowhood in my name as hereinafore specified) and my said son Frank W. shall pay to my daughter Mary one hundred dollars as her share in the eighty acres of land aforesaid when she attains to the age of twenty one years. And my said son George shall pay one hundred dollars to my daughter Sarah as share in the said eighty acres of land when she attains to the age of twenty one years. On condition of the faithful compliance with the foregoing directions, all of the aforesaid eighty (80) acres of land with the appurtenances shall be the property of my two sons Frank W. Vetter and George Vetter as follows, to wit, Frank W. Vetter shall have the East half and George Vetter shall the West half of the same. And my sons John Vetter and Hironimus Vetter and my daughter Catharine, intermarried with William Schmith shall each have five (5) dollars as their legacy which shall be paid out of my personal estate, and the residue of my personal property shall be equally divided between my said sons Frank W. and George and daughters Mary and Sarah when they become twenty one years old. In case any

of my herein named children shall die leaving no issue then in such case the legacy of such deceased according to the provisions of this will and testament shall be equally divided among those surviving of the four last mentioned, viz; Frank W, George, Mary and Sarah or their legal representative. Lastly, I constitute and appoint Sivi Bernhart to be executor of this, my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal the Weesaw(??)* day of Nvbr. 17*, in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy Four.*

Jacob Vetter

Signed and acknowledged by said Jacob

Vetter as his last will and testament, in our presence and signed by us in his presence.

** Appear to be filled in by a different hand than the body of the document*

*John Kratz**

*Christian Kratz**

In the actual probate activity which began in 1875, the executor or administrator of the estate was named S. F. Broadbeck, and John and Christian Kratz and Frederick Blimkey were appointed appraisers. The estate was valued at $2351 with $351 of personal property such as cows, hogs, grain, etc. The land was valued at $2000. The administrator proposed to sell the west half of the land to raise $600 to settle all debts but there is no record that the sale took place. Heirs were identified as Mary, Frank, George, Sarah and Mary, and his former children of his first marriage John and Jerome Vetter and Catharine Smith residing in Ohio.

During the settlement of the estate in the fall of 1885, Broadbeck received $850 from various sources including $100 from Mary (wife or daughter?), $50 for a colt, $127 for wheat, and $498 from “other sources.” He paid out $850 with $750 going to John Vetter who held a note of this amount from his father. George Vetter had died on January 3, 1879 and was not part of the settlement. Neither was Jacob’s wife Mary because she had married Peldewitz by this time. The land was then assigned to his children Frank, Mary and Sarah, the latter two having married Beckwith and Hauger, respectively, in accordance with the above will.

August Peldewitz | ~1833–1885

After the death of her second husband, Jacob Vetter, in 1875, Mary (Anna Maria) married her third husband August H. Peldewitz (aka Peltewitz and Peldwietz) on February 2, 1882[63]. Little is known about how they got together. Their marriage record, shown below, indicates that they were probably married at the Vetter farm since the record only indicates that they were married in Weesaw Twp. rather than a town. This record positively identifies Mary as Anna Maria since it was recorded with information provided directly from her. It also gives her place of birth but, unfortunately, the entry does not appear to correspond to a known town or province.

August's marriage to Mary Vetter is at least the second marriage for him as well. His first wife had a serious leg injury in about 1866 which did not heal well, causing her to be bed-ridden for much of the remainder of her life. She died of complications from a leg amputation and other diseases in 1881[64] at an age of 41 years. She and August had 6 children with the two youngest still at home at the time of her death.

August and Mary's time together was short: August died on March 25, 1885 after suffering a heart attack[65]. He was recovering from a broken leg caused by a fall from a load of wood when he died unexpectedly. The physicians probate claim records indicate that he broke his leg on about February 17, 1885. On this day, Dr. Dunning charged $7.00 to apparently set and dress his leg. There were repeated charges of about $1.00 almost every day for a month thereafter with a $2.00 on March 3rd for a splint.

August's probate file, summarize below[66], is interesting in several ways. First, he had a net worth of about $534.00 including miscellaneous personal property of $134.00 and real estate of $400. After probate expenses of about $135.00, it appears that Mary received all of his personal property and about $400 in cash over three years from the sale of his real estate. His children appear to have received nothing unless she gave them something after the fact.

Second, several familiar surnames appear in the probate documents, including Worth, Roth, Keller and Hauger. John Worth (Wirth?) could be Mary's son who had apparently borrowed $15 from Peldewitz. Peter Roth, probably Mary's brother, was one of two people who appraised the personal property and real estate of Peldewitz. The real estate was then sold to George Keller. Mary's sister Barbara was married to a Frederick Keller to whom George may be related. Finally, Joseph Hauger filed a claim against the estate which was not included in the final reconciliation. Mary's daughter Sarah married a Joseph Hauger on May 17, 1885. While all these people may have just been there to help a widow in need, it is also possible that Peldewitz's children were not treated fairly.

[63] See accompanying record of the Peldewitz-Vetter Marriage
[64] See accompanying obituary of Mrs. Peldewitz
[65] See accompanying obituary of August Peldewitz
[66] See accompanying summary of Peldewitz probate file

Appendix

MARRIAGE RECORD: AUGUST H. PELDEWITZ AND ANNA MARIA VETTER

Date of Marriage: February 2, 1882
Place of Marriage: Weesaw Twp., Berrien Co., Michigan
Name: August H. Peldewitz, Residence: South Bend, Indiana Age 48
Birthplace: Prussia Occupation: Blacksmith

Name: Anna Maria Vetter Residence: Weesaw Twp. Age 50
Birthplace: Harsby (Husby?) Occupation: Not given

Official: J. H. Keeler, Minister
Witnesses: Andrew and Catharine Froeschle, New Troy, Berrien Co.
Source: State of Michigan, County of Berrien, Record of Marriages, Page 77

Mrs. PELDEWITZ OBITUARY: South Bend Tribune, Saturday, April 30, 1881

TWELVE YEARS IN BED
Death of a woman who was bed-ridden for a dozen years

Last Saturday, the Tribune contained the particulars of an amputation performed on Mrs. Peldewitz, wife of August Peldewitz, who lives on Division Street. Nearly fifteen years ago her leg was broken and did not heal properly. Necrosis of the bone set in. Twelve years ago it became so bad that she was forced to go to bed. Besides the trouble with her leg other diseases set in which made her a confirmed invalid, and for twelve years she was unable to leave her bed without assistance. At the time of her accident the family lived in Medaryville, this state. Early last winter Mr. Peldewitz moved to this city. His wife's troubles grew worse. Several physicians were consulted, the last among them being Dr. Greene, of Mishawaka. He finally told her that she could not hope to live long in her condition and an amputation of the limb might save her life. She consented and the leg was cut off between the ankle and knee. She got along well for three or four days, but her other diseases gained such a hold on her that she began sinking a day or two ago and passed away Friday morning at 7 o'clock. Her body was taken to Medaryville Saturday morning for internment.

Mrs. Peldewitz was 41 years old and the mother of six children, all of them grown except the youngest.

AUGUST PELDEWITZ OBITUARY: South Bend Tribune, Saturday, March 28, 1885:

Sudden Death
Mr. Augustus Peldieltz, the teamster who broke his leg a few weeks ago by falling from a load of wood, died suddenly of heart disease Wednesday about 2 o'clock at his residence, 1019 West Division Street. His broken limb was healing nicely and his general health good. He sat up on Tuesday night chatting with his family until a late hour and died next morning soon after receiving the attack. His age was 52 years. He leaves a wife and six

children. (Transcriber's note: Date of death is given in probate filing as March 25, 1885)

SUMMARY OF PROBATE FILING
FOR
AUGUST PELDEWITZ
St. Joseph Co., Indiana
Box 94, File 265, No.2-/62

After the death of Peldewitz on March 25, 1885, his wife Mary initiated probate activities on March 31, 1885 by petitioning the court to appoint her as administratrix of his estate and posting a $250.00 bond (with Bernhard Rich (Ruh??)). Heirs, in addition to wife Mary, were identified as Augusta Goodtage, Minnie Schwartz, Edward Peltewitz, Matilda Dormke[67], and minor children Emma Peltewitz and William Peltewitz. She appears to have engaged a lawyer, J. P Creed, who did the legal work. Peldewitz's personal property was then immediately appraised on April 1, 1885 at $134.10, including a debt owed by John Worth of $15. His real estate, located at 1019 W. Division Street[68], South Bend, IN, was next appraised on April 18 at $400.00 bringing his net worth to $534.10. It is curious that one of the appraisers was Peter Roth, thought to be Mary's brother. On August 27, 1885, Mary certifies that with the blessings of the court she sold the real estate to George Keller for $400.00, $133.33 in cash and the remainder in two equal annual installments at 6% interest. It appears that in Indiana at that time there was a statute which gives a widow a $500.00 allowance from probate proceedings. In addition, there were probate costs of $135.50 (J. P. Creed, $20; County Clerk, $26; and undertaker, $57, Dr. Dunning, $32.50) for a total claim against the estate of $635.50. Thus, there is a balance due to Mary as administratrix of $101.40 ($534.10 - $635.50 = -$101.40) from the estate. "And inasmuch as there are no assets remaining to pay other debts and claims she hereby tenders her resignation as administratrix and asks that her doing as such herein be approved and this estate be stricken from the record." While there is no official paper saying so, the probate actions appear to close on August 27, 1885 with Mary receiving everything because of her $500 widow's allowance.

There may have been some kind of lawsuit involving the probate actions because the probate file contains an entry identifying the case of Mary Peltewitz, Adminstratrix vs. August Goodtage, Emma Peltewitz, and William Peltewitz. Lucius Hubbard is identified as guardian ad litem (?) of Emma and William "for answers to plaintiffs petition denies each and every material allegation therein." It would appear that Mary was suing August, Emma and William over something. August Goodtage may be the daughter Augusta or perhaps a husband of Augusta Peldewitz-Goodtage.

There are a lot of familiar names in this probate action: Peter Roth, John Worth, George Keller and Joseph Hauger. Peter is probably Mary's brother, John Worth (Wirth?) may be Mary's son

[67] See accompanying fact summary of Matilda's marriage record.
[68] Division Street no longer exists. It is now known as Western Avenue (State Highway 2) and is located about four blocks south of town center. It does not run east of the main north-south street.

with her first husband John Gottlieb Wirth, George Keller may be related to Mary's sister Barbara Keller's husband Frederick Keller, and Joseph Hauger mentioned below may be the husband of her daughter Sarah who married a Joseph Hauger on May 7, 1885.

Notes on probate file entries:
Lawyer for Mary Peldewitz was J. P. Creed. He was also a Notary Public. He was paid $20.00 on October 12, 1885 for his services on the probate filing.

Joseph Hauger filed a claim against the estate for $25.00 on April 11, 1885 as repayment of a debt incurred by A. Peldewitz. The debt may have occurred on Sept. 23, 1884. While Hauger made application for payment against the estate, there is no record that it was paid or considered in the final reconciliation.

The doctor attending August Peldewitz was apparently L. H. Dunning. He was paid $32.50 on Oct. 12, 1885 by Attorney J. P. Creed. His record of charges appears to begin in August of 1880 with 7 days of call, probably to treat August's first wife. There is then a charge for May 29, probably in 1881, followed by a charge on January 22, 1885. August's leg is apparently broken on February 17, 1885 as indicated by a $7.00 charge on that day. This if followed by almost daily charges of $1.00 through March 12 where the record ends.

The undertaker was Knoblock Brothers, 130 N. Main Street, South Bend, IN. They billed $57.00 on March 27, 1885 for a casket ($50.00), robe ($5.00) and a shirt ($2.00) and were paid on October 12, 1885.

The St. Joseph Circuit Court was paid $26.00 in fees on Oct. 12, 1885.

Inventory and Appraisement of Goods, etc.

Appraisers: Jacob G. Kline and Peter Roth
Date: April 1, 1885
Thirty miscellaneous items totaling $124.10 including such things as:

Parlor stove	$12.00
Tools	$3.00
Mare	$30.00
Horse colt	$25.00
Kitchen Table	$0.40
Cupboard & Dishes	$2.00
6 chairs & rocker	$1.50
Wagon	$10.00

Debt of $15.00 owed by John Worth appraised at $10.00
Total appraised value of Goods and Debt: $134.10

Inventory of Property:

Appraisers: Peter Roth & Jacob G. Kline
Date: April 18, 1885

Property Description: thirty one (31) feet wide east and west by ten (10) rods more or less north and south off of the west side of lot fifteen (15) in Deardoffs Subdivision Outlot Ninety (90) of the Outlots of the Town and City of South Bend in St. Joseph County in the State of Indiana. Platted by the State Bank of Indiana.
Valuation: $600.00
Appraised Value: $400.00

MARRIAGE RECORD OF Matilda Peldewitz
Marriage License issued February 4, 1882
Ernest Dormke and Matilda Peldewitz
Witness: L. E. Howard, Clerk
Place: State of Indiana, St. Joseph Co.
Marriage performed February 5, 1882
Officiating: F. F. Meyer, Minister of the Gospel
Source: Marriage Records of St. Joseph Co., IN

Gottlieb Behner | 1818-1905

Evangelical Association Clergyman
Fourth Husband of Anna Mary Roth (Wirth, Vetter, Peldewitz)

Born: September 1, 1818
Died: April 16, 1905, at age 86y, 7m, 16 days old
Buried: Myrtle Hill Cemetery, Myrtle Hill Rd.
CR-63 East of Columbia Rd SR-252
Liverpool Township, Ohio

The following is a summary of the biographical information obtained for Gottlieb F. Behner and his family. It is based upon obituary and church history records, most of which are quoted at the end of this document.

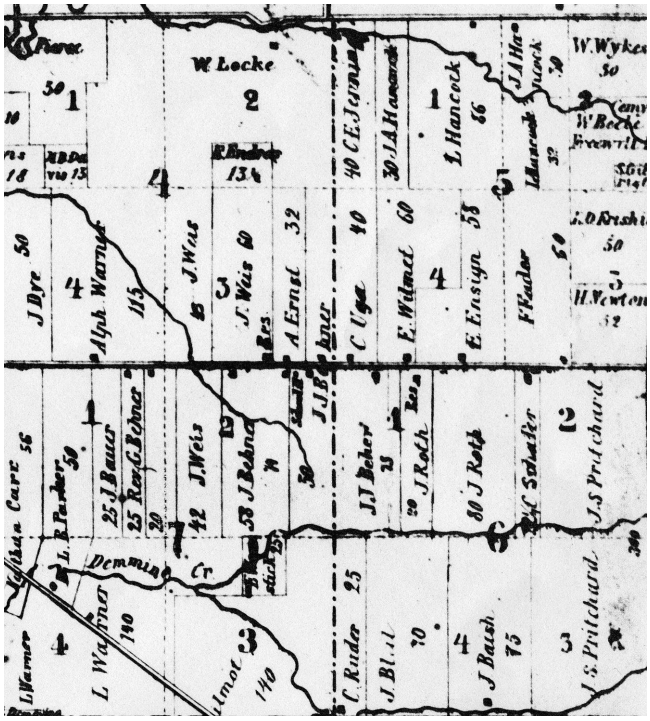
Gottlieb F. Behner was an Evangelical Association clergyman and farmer who ultimately became the fourth husband of Anna Marie Roth. He was born in Grafenhauser, Wurtenburg , Germany and came to the USA in 1833 with his widowed mother, two brothers and two sisters. They came by ship in what must have been a difficult voyage of 96 days duration. They settled to a life of farming in Liverpool Township, Medina Co., OH near the town that is now called Valley City, Ohio. In 1838 he was converted to the Evangelical Association faith as the result of revival-type meetings held in the area in 1835-36 by Henry Bucks and later in 1838 by A. B. Schaefer. He married Catherine Barbara Bauman on November 11, 1839. She came to the USA from Bavaria in 1834. Gottlieb, his wife Catherine, and Gottlieb's two brothers and two sisters all became members of the Evangelical Association in the late 1830s. Gottlieb and Catherine had a total of 8 children but 5 died young. The surviving children are believed to be Catharine, Louisa and Ezra.

Gottlieb became an Evangelical clergyman in 1845 and was instrumental in organizing the Liverpool class, Medina Co. of the Evangelical faith. He probably preached at a log church that was noted by Bishop Seybert who visited Liverpool on September 15, 1841. He served in various circuits of the church as follows:

1845-1846	Sandusky Ckt.
1847-1848	Marion Ckt.
1850-1852	Sandusky Ckt.
1856-1857	Lake Ckt.
1860-1861	Lake Ckt.

1846-1847	Wayne Ckt.
1848-1850	Lake Ckt.
1852-1853	Dayton Ckt.
1859-1860	Sandusky Ckt.

Gottlieb and Anna Marie Roth undoubtedly knew each other for many years because the 1857 plat map of the area shows that they lived only a mile or so apart.



1857 Plat Map of Liverpool Township, Medina Co.
Sections 4, 5, 6, and 7

The property of the Rev. G. Behner is shown in the lower part of the upper-right quarter of section 7. The Roth property is shown in the right-center of section 6.

Anna Marie joined the Evangelical faith in 1849 when Gottlieb was an active clergyman. In 1861, after the death of her first husband John Gottlieb Wirth in 1857, Anna Marie married Jacob Vetter. The marriage was performed by Gottlieb Behner on September 1, 1861. Note above that Behner was active in the Sandusky Circuit in this time frame and would have been aware that Vetter, a member of the Evangelical Association in Black River Twp., Loraine Co., OH, near the town of Loraine, was widowed (See excerpt from a history of the Loraine Co. area at the end of this document). He would have been in a position to be a match-maker. Also, it is possible that he married Anna to John Gottlieb Wirth in 1851 but that cannot be proven either at the time of this writing.

Gottlieb's fluctuations in and out of the ministry were apparently caused by health problems. Being a circuit rider for the Evangelical Association ministry, he was faced with great physical hardship. These ministers traveled to different locations every day, staying with local people, preaching about six days a week, rain or shine. It was particularly difficult in the winter and spring, when the weather was bad. There were essentially no roads, only paths and they had to cross streams without the convenience of even a bridge in many cases. He appears to have dropped out of the active ministry in 1854-5 and then again in 1858. He retired permanently 1862 due to health problems of his wife Catharine.

Gottlieb's wife Catharine died on April 10, 1884 at an age of either 64 yrs., 9 months and 24 days or 63 yrs, 10 months (conflicting data). Then, after the subsequent deaths of Anna Marie's second and third husbands, Jacob Vetter and August H. Peldewitz, Anna Marie returned to Ohio and married Behner in 1887.

The above summary is based upon church history, obituary and census information. The 1850 census information of Liverpool Twp., Medina Co., Ohio is as follows:

Gottlieb Behner	Age 32	Male M.E. Clergyman	Born in Germany
Catharine	Age 30	Female	Born in Germany
Fred	Age 10	Male	Born in Ohio
Catharine	Age 7	Female	Born in Ohio
Louisa	Age 2	Female	Born in Ohio

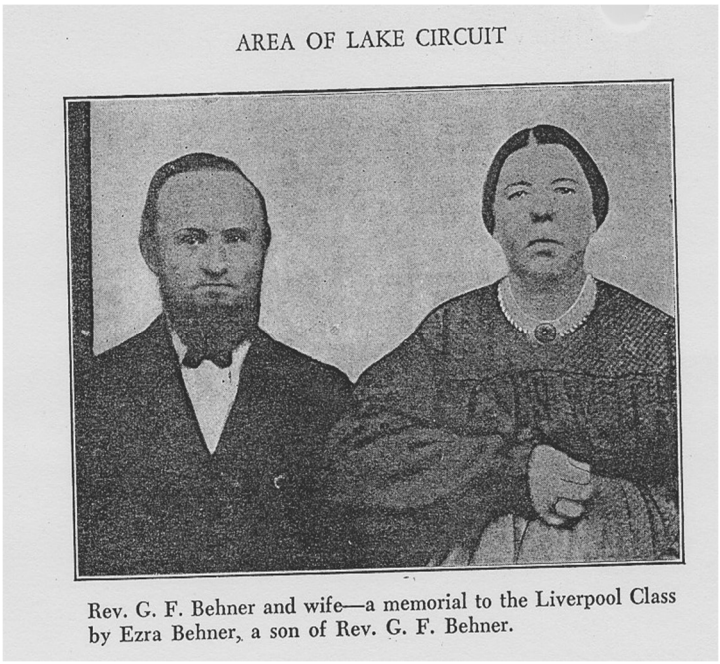
The corresponding 1860 census information is similar with a few additions:

G. F. Behner	Age 42	Male Farmer	Born in Wurtenburg
Catharine	Age 41	Female	Born in Bavaria
Fred	Age 19	Male	Born in Ohio
Catharine	Age 17	Female	Born in Ohio
Louisa	Age 15	Female	Born in Ohio
Ezra	Age 4	Male	Born in Ohio

Ezra also became a clergyman and left as a memorial to the Liverpool Class a photograph of Gottlieb and his wife Catharine. The following is the text surrounding the photo in Leedy's history which is referenced in the text several paragraphs below:

Liverpool Circuit.
In 1845 some appointments of Lake Circuit in the vicinity of Cleveland and Liverpool, now Valley City, Medina County, were used in forming a new field called Liverpool Circuit. It served in connection with Lake Circuit from 1869 to 1871 when it was finally abandoned.

Liverpool Church. The Evangelical Church was introduced into this community by the labors of Henry Bucks when he served Wooster Circuit, 1835-1836. By revivals which he held at that time and which A. B. Shaefer held in 1838, the family of Gottlieb Friedrich Behner, his wife, his two brothers, and two sisters were all won for the church. Also among these converts was the John G. Wollpert family. A son, John G. Wollpert, Jr., became an esteemed minister in the Ohio Conference and missionary to Germany. Two preachers also came from the Behner family, G. F. Behner and E. W. Behner. Mrs. John M. Gomer, a sister of Rev. Wollpert, and her husband were the first missionaries of the Evangelical Church in Texas and founders of that Conference.



Rev. G. F. Behner and wife—a memorial to the Liverpool Class by Ezra Behner, a son of Rev. G. F. Behner.

The early preachers were attracted by this community. A. B. Shaefer added forty three members to the class in 1838-1839. Stroh and Hall said there were 250 German families living here who were like sheep without a shepherd. "The house where we are preaching," he wrote "is too small to hold all who press in to hear the Word so people have decided to build a meeting house."

Bishop Seybert visited Liverpool on September 15, 1841 and made record of the "society of earnest Europeans who were serving God in spirit and truth. They have already built a new church in which I preached from Revelations 3:17:18…" This was a log church two and one half miles east and a half mile south of Valley City. A frame church was built two and one half miles northeast of Valley City and dedicated November 23, 1862. Liverpool was with West 65th St. Church in 1903.

Gottlieb's first wife, Catharine, is buried at Myrtle Hill along with others of the same name (Related??). The following is from Catharine's death record (Recorded 7/15/1885):

Catharine, Wife of G. P(?, not F) Behner; Age 64; Female; White; Married; Disease - Dropsy; Died April 10, 1884; Place of Death - State (Ohio), County (Medina), Town (Liverpool); Place of Birth - State (Bavaria), County (Hoflinns), Town (Unfaud); Last Place of Residence - State (Ohio), County (Medina), Town (Liverpool).

Also buried in this cemetery are:

Fridrich G. Behner , died Feb. 9, 1887 - 7Y 5M
Harlow P. Behner, died Aug. 9, 1886 - 1Y
Katharina Behner, died April 11, 1884 - 64Y 9M 3D
Frederick Behner, died November 19, 1871

Their relationship to Gottlieb Behner is not certain since there are several other Behner families shown on adjacent farms in a plat map dated 1857. They are probably related in some way. It is possible that Katharina Behner is a sister of Gottlieb's and Frederick may be a son referenced in the above census summaries.

The death record of Medina County also lists the following person who may be a niece of Gottlieb's:

Mary Behner; Age 31; Female; White; Single; Disease - Heart; Died January 31, 1885; Place of Death - State (Ohio), County (Medina), Town (Liverpool); Place of Birth - State (Ohio), County (Medina), Town (Liverpool); Last Place of Residence - State (Ohio), County (Medina), Town (Liverpool).

Another source of information used in writing the above is a document entitled "The Evangelical Church in Ohio", published in 1959 by the Ohio Conference of Evangelical United Brethren Church and authored by Roy B. Leedy, A.B., B.D., the Ohio Conference Historian. The obituary of Gottlieb F. Behner is another important source of information. It is included in the Evangelical Messenger of 1905 on page 283 and is transcribed below.

OBITUARY: Published in the Evangelical Messenger, May 3, 1905

THE REV. GOTTLIEB F. BEHNER

Father G. F. Behner was born at Graefenhausen, Wurtenberg, Germany, September 1, 1818, and died April 16, 1905 at Liverpool, Ohio at the age of 86 years, 7 months and 16 days. He arrived in this country in his 12th year with his widowed mother, together with his brothers and sisters, after a voyage of 96 days. The family settled in Liverpool, Ohio.

In his 20th year Father Behner became thoroughly awakened by a sermon of Absolom Schaefer, and in the following year he was converted when Aaron Yampert and John Stahl served on the circuit. Then Father Behner became a class leader and after a hard struggle he gave himself up to join the ranks of the Evangelical ministers in his 27th year and came to the Ohio Conference in 1845. He was stationed successively at Sandusky, Wayne, Marion and Lake Circuit, then again at Sandusky and Greensburg from 1845 to 1853. Later, he was sent to Dayton, but owing to illness he was compelled to locate temporarily. After a few years, he again entered the active ranks and served on Lake Circuit 2 years and 1 year at Sandusky, and then again left active service. In 1865 he had charge of Aaron St. Mission at Cleveland for 1 year, but on account of the sickness of his wife he was obliged to locate permanently. In his brief autobiographical notes he says: "My service as a minister of the Gospel was crowned with success: all honor to God." There are many living who heard Father Behner preach, and they bear testimony that he was an able and successful servant of the Lord. Even unto old age he showed rare talents. In the days of his activity he was instrumental in leading quite a number of souls to Christ. Only one week before his death he related to me particulars of a great revival during his pastorate on Lake Circuit. Father Behner had a clear understanding of the Bible, for he was a Bible student. He served as a minister 12 years in times when it required much self-denial.

In 1939 he was united in marriage with Miss K. B. Bowman; they lived happily together for 45 years and were bless with 8 children, four of whom died in early childhood and one son in later years. He was also bereft of his wife. In 1887 he married Mary Pelterwitz, nee Roth.

Father Behner leaves a widow, 3 children, 22 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, one sister and may other relatives and friends.

On the 9th of April, he walked with me about a quarter of a mile to church and was very much interested in the service and took part in the singing. When we parted, after having spoken of the possibility of a change of pastors at the next conference, he said: 'I hoped you would preach my funeral service," to which I replied: "I might do so anyhow." Little did I think that the end was so near: perhaps he did.

On the following Sunday morning the weary traveler reached his Father's house in heaven. The undersigned preached in German, and Rev. D. P. Fulmer, of the M. E. Church, preached in English. Rev. J. D. Seip also took part in the service.

G. Gaehr.

EXCERPT FROM THE
HISTORY OF LORAIN CO., OH
1879
WILLIAMS BROTHERS

EVANGELICAL CHURCH: There was an organization of this denomination many years ago, in the northwest part of the township (Black River). The society built a meeting house on the farm of George Drudy. The church was subsequently disbanded and the meeting house sold, most of the members uniting with a similar society at North Amherst. The rest of the members continued their meeting, usually holding them at the log house of widow Brown, in Lorain, and in a few years organized the present church, erecting a building which cost six or seven hundred dollars. The members were Jacob Vedder and wife, Mrs. Mary Brown, son and daughter (John and Elizabeth), and a few others whose names cannot now be recalled. The church now numbers about forty members. Rev Jacob Hunniker is pastor, and Henry Wiegand and John Horn are class leaders. The Sabbath school numbers about one hundred pupils, with H. Wiegand, superintendent.

Julia Ann Miller | 1835-1915

Our g-g-grandmother Julia Ann Miller-Raven-Wallace is discussed in this chapter. She was married twice, first to Henry Raven and then to William Wallace. This chapter deals primarily with Julia herself rather than her children. Her children with Henry Raven and William Wallace are the focus of chapters entitled ROSE ELIZABETH RAVEN, THE RAVEN LINE and THE WALLACE LINE. There will be overlap and repetition between these four chapters since some facts pertain to two or more people.

Julia came to the United States of America in 1852[69] with her parents Jacob and Katharine Miller and one or more siblings. She was born on July 7, 1835, perhaps in Baden, Germany as indicated by family records and the 1860 census below. She was either married to Henry Ravens when she immigrated, or married him shortly after arriving. By 1860, she and her husband Henry had settled in or near the present town of Lorain, OH which had a strong German presence as indicated by the history of the area quoted below:

As of the later settlers, Mr. W. H. Root writes: "Up to the year 1830, little or no settlement was made in this township away from Lake Rd., and but few in the S.E. corner of town. The unsettled portion was a dense wilderness, covered principally by white oak timber, when the sturdy Germans began its settlement in the year 1833. They did not come in a month or one year, but their numbers increased rapidly, and wherever they went they made their mark and their mark is plain to be seen at the present time. I will name a few of these pioneers as I remember them and able to write out their names: C. L. Farber, Baunhaets, Jacobs, Friends, Barks, Haulsaure, Hagerman, Hauns, ***Vetter****, Harwick and others."*

History of Lorain Co., Ohio, Williams Bros, 1879, Page 210
Chapter on Black River Township

Julia and Henry started their family immediately and ultimately had three children, two of whom are shown in the 1860 census below:

1860 Census, Lorain Co., Black River Twp., OH
Ravens, Henry, 40, Farmer, $360 Real Estate +$200 Personal,
born Baden, Gr.
Julia Ann, 24, born Baden, Gr.
Adam H., 6, born OH
Rosetta, 3, born OH

Little is known about Henry other than what is indicated above and shown in chapter THE RAVEN LINE. He was apparently born in about 1820 in or around Baden, Gr. and probably came to the USA within a few years of Julia's family since he has not been found in the 1850

[69] See 1900 Census of Berrien Co., Weesaw Twp., MI. However, she is shown with her parents in the1850 census of Amherst Township, Lorain Co., OH suggesting that they came earlier, perhaps in 1848 when her brother David did.

census of any state. Son Adam was born on June 8, 1854; and daughter Rosetta (Rose) Elizabeth was born on November 26, 1856. After this 1860 census was taken, the Raven family increased further with the birth of their third child, Frances, who was born on August 22, 1863[70]. Adam and Frances are discussed further in chapter THE RAVEN LINE, and Rose is in chapter ROSE ELIZABETH RAVEN.

Sometime after the conception of Francis, Henry either dies or leaves the family and Julia marries William S. Wallace. The photo shown here is a badly scratched tin-type believed to be of their marriage in the 1860s. While the date of this marriage is yet to be found, they appear as a married couple in the 1870 census in Missouri with Julia's children with Henry Raven as summarized below.

Shortly after the 1870 census was taken, Julia and family returned to the Lorain, OH area. There, her daughter Rose married John Franklin Wirth and moved to Michigan, and Adam married Emma Notham. Julia and William increased their family during the 1870s with the birth of Lois, George and Ester Wallace and cared for her daughter Frances from her first marriage as indicated in the 1880 census also below. Frances married John Emery in about 1883 leaving Julia to raise her children with W. Wallace and care for Julia's parents Jacob and Jane (aka Catharine) who are also living with them at that time.

1870 Census, De Kalb Co., Washington Twp., MO

Wallace, William, 29, Farmer, born NY, Parents foreign born
Julia, 32, keeping house, born Germany, Parents foreign born
Raven, Rosetta, 14, born OH, going to school, cannot write
Raven, Francis, 7, born OH, going to school
Wallace, Elizabeth, 3, born Canada, Parents foreign born

1880 Census, Lorain Co., Black River Twp., OH

Wallace, William, 40, Teaming, born NY, father and mother born Scotland
Julia, 45, born Prussia, father and mother born Prussia
Lois, 7, born MO
Georgie, 5, born OH
Esther, 3, born OH
Raven, Frances, 17, stepdaughter
Miller, Jacob, 84, father-in-law, born Prussia
Miller, Jane, 81, mother-in-law, born Prussia

The next information about Julia and the Wallace family is contained in the 1900 census of Berrien County, MI as shown below. This census indicates that the Wallace family moved from

[70] Recorded in Wirth family ledger book

OH to Michigan sometime between 1880 and 1900, probably following the lead of Julia's daughter Rose (Rosetta). The obituary of George Wallace, shown in chapter THE WALLACE LINE, places the date of their emigration as 1889. The eldest Wallace daughter, Lois, died on March 7, 1894[71] of unknown causes and is buried in New Troy Cemetery, New Troy, MI. Lois is the only one of Julia's children whose death is documented in the Wirth family ledger through 1900. Thus, since the 1900 census record indicates the death of two children, there must be another child who died in the interval between census records. Birth records from Lorain Co., OH[72] indicate a Julia E. born to William Wallace and Julia Ann M (Last name undecipherable) on June 14, 1878. This is possibly the missing child, born one year after Esther. In a journal kept by John F. Wirth, there is also a record of a Harvey Wallace who died on August 16, 1870. He is also a possibility.

1900 Census, Berrien Co., Weesaw Twp., MI

Wallace, Julia, born July, 1835, age 64, widow, bore 7 children with 5 living, born Germany, parents born Germany, came to USA in 1852, in USA 48 yrs., speaks reads and writes English, owns home free of mortgage.

Esther, daughter, born June 1877, age 22, single, born OH, father born OH, mother born Germany, occupation dressmaker.

The home referred to in the 1900 census resides in New Troy, MI on Lot 5, Block 11. Family oral history and probate records indicate that it is the first house on the south side of Glendora Rd. going east from the junction of Mill Rd., Glendora Rd. and the main street of New Troy.

This photo shows Julia and William in their later years. The date not known with precision, but could be about 1898, perhaps in celebration of their 30th wedding anniversary. William Wallace died on October 18, 1899 at age 59 yrs., 4 mos., and 4 days[73] making his birth date June 14, 1840. The cause of death was angina. Also, this photo may have been taken to record his image, knowing that he was very ill. William was born on June 12, 1841 in New York State. A census search shows what appears to be him in a household headed by James Wallace who was born on the Isle of Man, Scotland. Wallace was a famous name in Scotland.

George Wallace married Edna Penwell in 1896. By 1900, the Wallace household was thereby reduced to Julia and her daughter Esther. Julia's only income in the early 1900s would appear to

[71] Wirth family ledger book

[72] LDS film # 1294334.

[73] Deaths in the City of Benton Harbor recorded by the County Clerk of Berrien Co., MI

come from her daughter Esther who was a dressmaker. Julia could, of course, provide domestic work for neighbors in the New Troy area.

Between 1900 and 1910, the family continues to evolve. Frances Raven-Emery dies on April 7, 1901 in Mansfield, OH. Then, Esther married John Rosebrough (December 4, 1901) in St. Joseph, MI[74] and had a son Wallace Rosebrough in 1902 as indicated in the 1910 census. Esther then dies on June 14, 1906[75] of a ruptured appendix, thus reducing Julia's surviving children to three in number. Wallace apparently lives on with his grandmother after his mother's death. A summary of the 1910 census shows Julia still living in Weesaw Township with her grandson as follows:

1910 Census, Berrien Co., Weesaw Twp., MI
Wallace, Julia, 74, bore 7 children w/ 3 living, born in Germany,
Parents born in Germany
Rosebrough, Wallace, 7, born MI, father born MI, mother born OH

As the years progress, Julia's health begins to fail and she is no longer able to look after her grandson Wallace. He then moves to South Dakota and is shown in the 1920 census living with his uncle and aunt, George and Edna Wallace. Shortly thereafter, Wallace strikes out alone and finally forms a family of his own in California. His life and the life of the other Wallace children are described more fully in chapter THE WALLACE LINE.

Julia's health continued to degrade from 1911 onward until her death in 1915. During this time, she apparently ate meals and lived periodically with her daughter Rose E. Wirth at the Wirth farm. Julia Miller-Raven-Wallace passed away on November 16, 1915[76] and is buried in New Troy Cemetery. At the time of her death, she was survived by her children Adam Raven, Rose E. Raven-Wirth, and George Wallace, and by five grandchildren: Wallace Rosebrough, and two of Francis Raven-Emery's three daughters, Lucy Schaeffer and Ruth Metcalf; and by Rose's children Otis and Herbert Wirth. Several g-grandchildren also survive. Julia died at the home of her daughter Rose, a farm house built by her son-in-law John Franklin Wirth in 1905. A photo of this farm house is shown in Chapter ROSE ELIZABETH RAVEN. .

In Julia's probate filing[77] , Rose Raven-Wirth claimed boarding costs ($2.50 per week totaling $535.00) dating from October 1911 to November 1915 sufficient to consume Julia's entire estate after other costs were paid. This would suggest that Julia had several meals per week provided by Rose Wirth for this entire period. This may reflect that Julia had essentially no real

[74] The Three Oaks, MI Acorn published Dec. 12/13, page 25.
[75] Wirth family ledger book.
[76] Berrien Co. Probate Deceased File # 5724
[77] See probate file number 5724 of the Berrien Co. Probate Court

source of income in these years, and was dependent upon her children for sustenance. Her only asset was her home. It is possible that claiming all of Julia's estate strained the relationship between the Wirth, Wallace and Raven families so that the families did not interact extensively thereafter even though many descendants continued to live only tens of miles from the Wirth farm. Her total estate was valued at $706.11 including her house which was sold for $639.00. She may have spent 3 days in St. Joseph Hospital as there was a $9.00 charge shown in her probate file.

An obituary has not been located as yet, but it is believed to exist in the Acorn newspaper published in Three Oaks, MI. A copy of her death certificate, shown below, indicates that she died of pneumonia.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
COUNTY OF BERRIEN) SS

I, M. LOUISE STINE, Clerk of the County of Berrien, Clerk of the Circuit Court of said County, the same being a Court of Record and having a seal, do hereby certify that I have compared the below copy with the record thereof now remaining in my office and have found it to be a true copy.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have affixed the Seal of said Circuit Court at St. Joseph, this 3rd day of March, A.D. 20 05.

M. LOUISE STINE
COUNTY CLERK

Elizabeth A. Bauer
DEPUTY CLERK

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF BERRIEN, ST. JOSEPH, MICHIGAN

CERTIFIED COPY OF RECORD OF DEATH

I, **M. LOUISE STINE**, Clerk of the County of Berrien, and of the Circuit Court thereof, the same being a Court of Record having a Seal, do hereby certify that the following is a copy of the Record of Death of JULIA WALLACE now remaining in my office, and of the whole thereof, viz:

RECORD NUMBER	DATE OF DEATH			FULL NAME OF DECEASED	MALE OR FEMALE	WHITE, BLACK, MULATTO, ETC.	MARRIED, SINGLE WIDOW OR WIDOWER
	MONTH	DAY	YEAR				
D-133	NOV.	17	1915	JULIA WALLACE	FEMALE	WHITE	WIDOWED

AGE			PLACE OF DEATH	DISEASE OR CAUSE OF DEATH	BIRTHPLACE
YEAR	MONTH	DAYS			
80	4	10	WEESAW TOWNSHIP, MI	LOBAR PNEUMONIA	GERMANY

OCCUPATION	PARENTS NAMES	PARENTS RESIDENCE	DATE OF RECORD
RETIRED	MILLER	GERMANY	APRIL 10, 1916
	UNKNOWN	GERMANY	

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Circuit Court, the **3RD** day of **MARCH** A.D. **2005.**

M. LOUISE STINE, County Clerk.

By Elizabeth A. Bauer Deputy Clerk.

The Miller Line

Our g-g-grandmother Julia Miller emigrated from Germany in about 1848[78] along with her parents and numerous siblings. She is the subject of a separate chapter but this one deals with her parents, her siblings and their descendants. Julia, her parents and others of her family are found in the 1850 census of Amherst Township, Lorain Co., OH as summarized below;

Jacob Miller, 54, Farmer, born Germany
Catharine, 50, born Germany
Elizabeth, 19, born Germany
***Julia**, 15, born Germany*
Margarite, 12, born Germany
Amelia, 9, born Germany

In addition, there are several other Miller families in Lorain County[79] who may have emigrated in 1850 or before and who may or may not be related. They include Henry and Catharine Miller who seem to have settled in Black River Township prior to 1840[80]. Simon and Gertrude Miller and Jacob and Margaret Miller had both settled in Avon Township prior to 1845. David and Margaret Miller settled in Black River Township and George and Christina settled in Brownhelm Township.

While it is difficult to determine the relationship between these families, some judgments can be made. Henry and Catharine were the earliest to emigrate and may have been pathfinders for others. Jacob and Margaret are probably related to the Simon and Gertrude family. This is thought probable because they are located in the same township and use common given names of Simon and Gertrude for the children of Jacob/Margaret. The birthplaces of the children of George and Christina in their 1850 census indicate that they emigrated between 1846 and 1848, in close proximity of the emigration date of our g-g-g-grandparents Jacob and Catharine Miller. Therefore, George may be the son of Jacob and Catharine. From other data discussed later, David Miller is identified with some certainty as the son of Jacob and Catharine. His 1850 and 1860 census summaries are shown below;

1850 Black River Township, Lorain Co., OH
David Miller, 23, Blacksmith, born Germany
Margaret, 23, born Germany
Margaret Clouse, 9, born Germany

[78] See chapter Julia Ann Miller
[79] See reference to German families settling in Lorain Co., Black River area in chapter Julia Ann Miller.
[80] Some dates of emigration were determined by the country of birth of children, i.e. Germany vs. Ohio.

1860 Amherst Township, Lorain Co., OH
David Miller, 32, Farmer, born Baden
Margaret, 32, born Hesse Kessel
Louis, 9, born OH
Mary, 8, born OH
Sophia, 5, born OH
Elizabeth, 2, born OH
Roana, 3/12, born OH

The 1850 and 1860 censuses below indicate that George may have died in about 1864 since they had no children after that time. In addition, Christina appears to use the name Eliza rather than Christina.

1850 Brownhelm Township, Lorain Co., OH
George Miller, 29, Farmer, born Germany
Christina, 30, born Germany
Catharine, 5, born German
William, 4, born Germany
Morton, 2, born OH(sic Martha?)

1860 Brownhelm Township, Lorain Co., OH
Eliza Miller, 43, Farmer, born Hesse
Catharine, 15, born Hesse
William, 14, born Hesse
Martha, 12, born OH
Eliza, 10, born OH
Adam, 7, born OH

Census traces of Eliza (Christiana) and Adam in 1870 show them still in Brownhelm Township, with daughter/sister Eliza (Lizzy) at age 19. Adam is listed as a farmer. Martha (22) is shown living in an adjacent farm owned by Horace Sanders and wife Susan. There is also another family living there headed by Walter Davis (36). There are several Davis children (ages 15 and below), but no wife. This suggests that Martha may be acting as a domestic or potential wife of Davis. William was not found in the 1870 census. This trace of George and Christina via census data essentially vanishes at this point. Without further information, such as marriage records, this search is abandoned here.

The trace of David Miller is different, however, due to fortuitous combination of information. Clarence Wirth mentioned that he once travelled with his grandmother to OH to visit relatives as did his sister Lois. Lois kept a photographic record of these visits and two photos show her and her grandmother with " Mrs Clotz" in about 1920[81]. The census summary of Lorain City shows the following;

[81] See chapter Lois Mae Wirth

1920 Lorain City, Blackriver Township, Lorain Co., OH
Reana Clotz, 59, born OH, parents born Germany
John Cadden, 35, son-in-law, born OH, parents born Ireland, RR Conductor
Edith Cadden, 34, daughter, born OH, parents born OH
Julia Miller, sister, 55

Lois also kept photos of herself with John and Edith Cadden. This census summary connects the Miller surname to Reana and her sister Julia. If we now backtrack some 40 years to 1880 we have;

1880 Amherst Twp., Lorain Co., OH
David Miller, 53, blacksmith, born Bavaria
Margaret, 52, born Kurhessen, Prussia
Roena, 20, born OH
John, 18, born OH
Julia, 15, born OH
Emma, 12, born OH

This census summary shows that Roena and Julia are the daughters of David Miller. The fact that our g-grandmother Rose Raven-Wirth visited Roena is almost certain proof that David Miller is directly related to the family. David's last census entry in 1900 is summarized as follows:

1900 Amherst Twp., Lorain Co., OH
David Miller, 72, emigrated 1848, born Germany, Capitalist, married 1851.
Margaret, 72, emigrated 1838, mother of 8 children w/ 7 living, born Germany
Julia, 36, born OH

Thus David and our g-g-grandmother Julia Miller-Raven-Wallace emigrated from Germany in the same year and, based upon the sum of the above information, are almost certainly brother and sister. The Miller cousins, i.e. the children of David, are then:

Louis, born ~1851
Mary, born ~1852
Sophia, born ~1855
Elizabeth, born ~1858
Roana, born ~1859
John, born ~1862
Julia, born ~1865
Emma, born ~1868

We believe Louis and John are found in the 1900 census living in Lorain City and Amherst Twp., respectively. We also know that Roana and Julia survive through 1900. Without marriage data, it is not possible to determine who of the above died before 1900 as indicated in the 1900 census above. It is left to others to trace these relatives further.

In addition to tracing our g-g-grandmother's brothers, at least one of her sisters has been traced because she lived with her parents a short time after her marriage. Her married name was recorded in the 1860 census shown below, as Amelia Bark. She has been traced through the census years. She and husband Barney had 10 children with only 5 surviving through 1900, namely George, Edward, Fredrick, Franklin and Winfred. Edward, Franklin and Winfield (Winfred?) were found in the 1920 census, all living in Lorain City. There is no record of contact with the Bark family in the Wirth records.

Our g-g-g-grandparents Jacob and Catharine were also traced via census records from 1850, shown above, through 1880. In 1860, they are shown living in Amherst Township as summarized below;

1860 Amherst Twp., Lorain Co., OH
Jacob Miller, 56, Farmer, born Baden
Catharine, 54, born Badem
Amelia Bark, 18, born Baden
George Bark, 1, born OH
Barney Bark, 23, born Hesse Cassel

The 1870 census shows Jacob and Catharine living alone still in Amherst Township two entries before the entry for David Miller, their son.

The 1880 census identification of Jacob and Catharine is more complicated. They are finally located living with their daughter Julia after she marries William Wallace as summarized below.

1880 Avon Twp., Lorain Co., OH
William Wallace, 40, born NY, Parents born Scotland, Teaming
Julia, 45, born Prussia, Parents born Prussia
Lois, 7, daughter, born MO
Georgie, 5, son, born OH
Esther, 3, daughter, born OH
Francis Ravers (sic Raven), 17, stepdaughter, born OH
Jacob Mitter (sic Miller), 84, father-in-law, born Prussia
Jane, 81, mother-in-law, born Prussia

Jacob and Catharine (Jane?) were misidentified as surname Mitter because of a inadvertent line which crossed the two "Ls" in the word Miller. The Wirth ledger lists the dates of death for Jacob as August 8, 1887 and for Katharine as September 15, 1885. An attempt has been made to find their burial location, but Lorain Co. does not seem to have any record of their deaths. Shortly after their deaths, Julia and William Wallace moved to Michigan (New Troy) in 1889 according to the obituary of their son George.

A preliminary search of ship manifests and other entry documents for Jacob and Catharine's entry into the USA has not been successful to date.

John Franklin Wirth | 1853-1906

John F. Wirth, the eldest child of John Gottlieb Wirth and Anna Marie Roth-Wirth, was born on September 26, 1853[82]. He and his brother Henry (3/3/1855 – 7/15/1883) were born "near Cleveland, OH[83]." No official record of his birth has been located as yet, but it is assumed that the first years of his life were lived in the vicinity of Valley City, OH near where his mother lived[84]. In 1855, the Wirth family emigrated from OH to near Dayton, MI. Documents from his father's probate filing[85] indicate that they probably lived in the Wilson Community; a settlement located about 2 miles west of the present town of Dayton, MI. Then, in November 1856, his parents purchased a 200 acre farm a few miles NW of Dayton, a portion of which would be ultimately become the present Wirth farm[86].

On April 1, 1857, John's father died, leaving his widowed mother with two children and a mortgage. For sustenance, she then returned to the Roth family home near Valley City[87]. Marriage was a necessity for widows with children in those days since there was no way for Anna Marie to sustain her family without a husband's income. Living near her was an itinerant minister of the Evangelical Association faith, Gottlieb Behner[88], whose circuit included the Lorain OH area located about 20 miles west of Cleveland and near Lake Erie. One of his parishioners was Jacob Vetter, a widower with grown children. On September 16, 1861, Rev. Behner married Anna Marie and Jacob Vetter[89], providing a husband for Anna Marie (Mary) and a stepfather for the Wirth children.

Early in the 1860s, John and the Vetter family moved from OH to an 80 acre portion of the 200 acre farm purchased earlier by J. G. Wirth. Vetter ultimately purchased this farm from the Roth family who paid off part of the Wirth mortgage. John and his brother Henry then spent most of their early years with their mother, stepfather, and a growing Vetter family. They were joined by Frank, twins Mary and Sarah, and George Vetter, all born in the 1860s. They probably helped their stepfather homestead the 80 acres, now known as the Losmack farm. But it is also likely that as they grew older, they also worked on the other 120 acre portion of the Wirth farm owned by their mother.

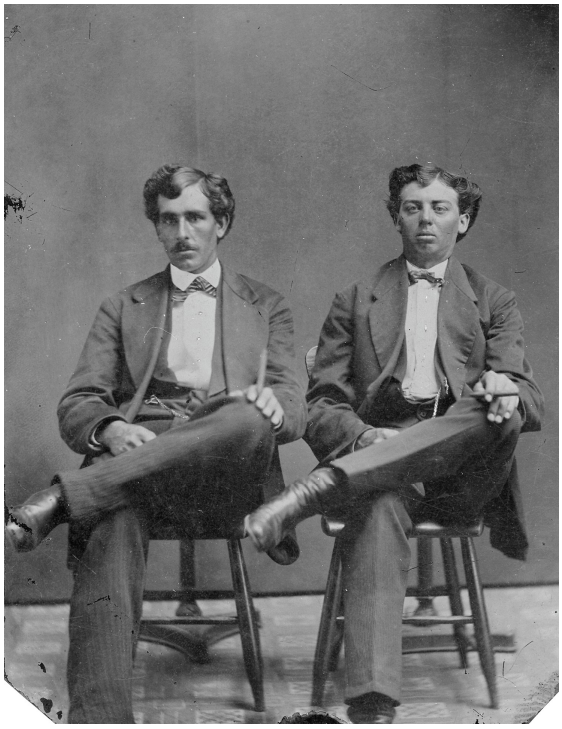
The railroad passed only a few miles south of the Wirth/Vetter farms and provided relatively easy transportation between the farms and Ohio locations. Anna Marie's brother Peter and her sister Barbara are known to have visited and bought land in Michigan. Similarly, there was contact with Vetter's adult children and the Lorain/Elyria OH area.

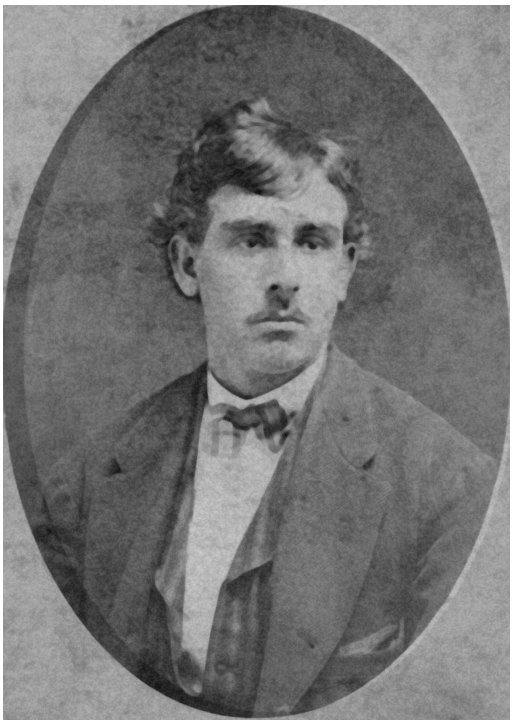
John's early religious affiliation was with the German-speaking Evangelical Association. His mother had joined that faith in her late teens. His stepfather was also a member of that faith

[82] His date of birth is found in a ledger kept by the family and confirmed by obituaries, etc.
[83] Ibid
[84] See companion biography of Anna Marie Roth
[85] John Gottlieb Wirth Probate in chapter by that name
[86] See probate of John Gottlieb Wirth, Otis Wirth bio,
[87] See 1860 census of Jacob Roth
[88] See Gottlieb Behner bio
[89] Marriage records of Medina County, OH Vol. C, page 350

while living in OH. In addition, his mother and stepfather were founding members of an Evangelical Association church constructed near their new home in MI. This faith was much like the Methodist faith which he joined later in 1902.

On January 6, 1876, when John F. Wirth was about 22, he married Rose Elizabeth Raven[90] from Lorain. Rose had two siblings, an older brother Adam and a younger sister Francis. A marriage photograph has not been located, but two photos of John from approximately that time are shown below. On the left is a tintype of John (on left) with a man thought to be Rose's brother Adam Raven. This photo was probably taken at the time of the wedding based upon the quality of the cloths and the inclusion of Adam who may have been a best man. On the right is a photo of John from that same period, and dressed in a similar fashion. Companion photos of Rose have not been found.





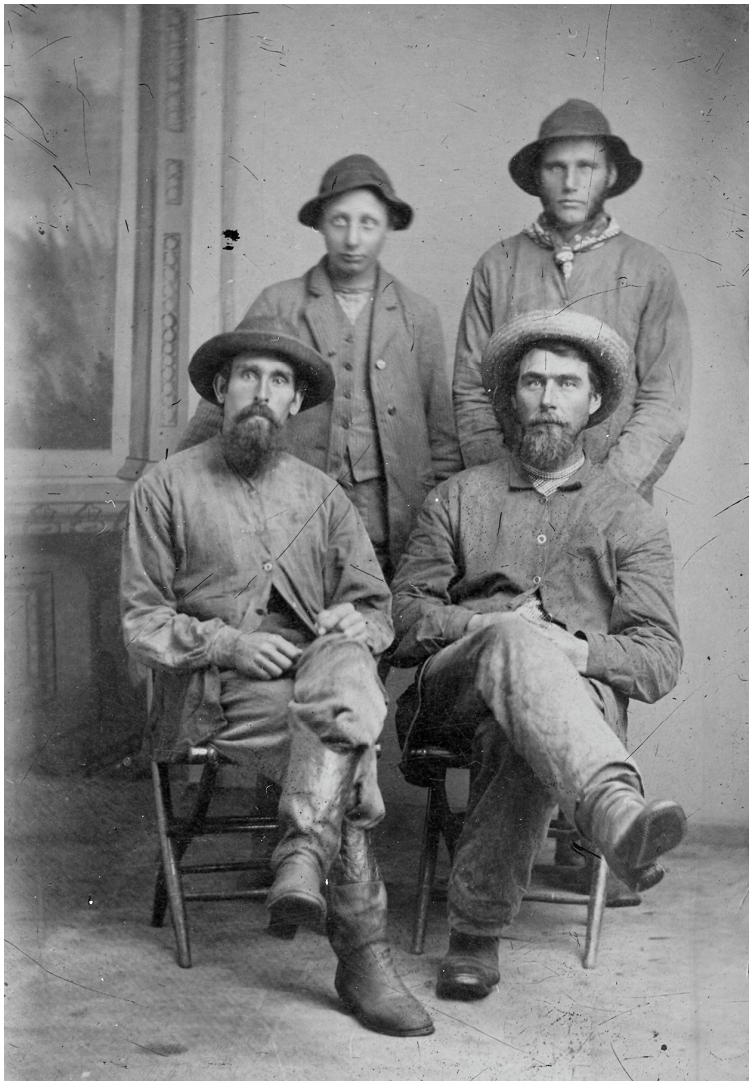
John Franklin Wirth with Adam Raven (left photo)
Circa 1876

After the wedding, family lore indicates that John returned to MI and prepared to bring Rose to their new home. She is said to have arrived by rail coach at the small settlement of Avery, located about two miles SSW of the Wirth farm. She probably arrived in the spring since it was said that the roads or paths were very muddy at the time. This precluded using a wagon or a carriage to bring her and her belongings to the farm. Family lore indicated that she was brought to her new log cabin home on a mud boat, two skids covered by planking and pulled by horses.

[90] Marriage record from Lorain County Common Pleas Court, Probate Division

The homestead process consisted of erecting a log cabin and pole barn for livestock, planting an orchard, and clearing land for planting. Their children, Otis and Herb Wirth, told the authors that the log cabin was located immediately north of the present house. The location of the pole barn is indicated by depressions found in the lawn south of the present house. The authors also remember fruit trees located near the house which were remnants of the original orchard.

Homesteading was hard physical work. The tintype photo below shows what folks looked like in that era. This photo is believed to show the Wirth and Vetter men in about 1878. John and his brother Henry are seated. Standing (L/R) is George and Frank Vetter. The date of the photo is estimated by the apparent age of George who was born in 1867 and, based on a tombstone in New Troy cemetery, died in 1879.



At this time, ownership of the original Wirth farm was divided with Vetter holding 80 acres, and the remaining 120 acres divided with 40 acres each owned by John, Henry and Anna Marie Vetter. Shortly after this photo was taken, however, Henry died (1883) and his parcel was assumed by John.

Little is known about Henry. In a probate documents filed many years after his death to officially transfer land ownership to John, Henry only made his mark. While John's documents show a clear, well formed signature, Henry was apparently illiterate.

John and Rose continued the development of their homestead and family. Their first son Herbert was born on January 6, 1878 followed by Otis on March 6, 1883. While no details of their life during the 1880s have been found, the family photo shown below suggests a reasonably prosperous life. It shows John and Rose with Herbert and Otis in about 1886. It was taken or printed by a photographer in Cleveland, OH and indicates that occasionally they traveled to OH to visit relatives.

John may have been a bit of an entrepreneur. Starting in 1891, John became an officer of the Weesaw Township Road Commission. A ledger book found in the Wirth home shows that John was paying various residents for materials and work on roads and bridges from 1891 through

1894. Family lore also indicates that he was working with a neighbor, George Luther, in the construction of houses and perhaps other buildings. This ledger book and title documents show that he frequently took out loans and paid them back. Somehow, he earned enough money to construct a granary (1893), a barn (1898 and a large frame house (1905). His obituary describes him as a prosperous farmer.

John and his sons attended the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago. This fair introduced the world to electricity, breakfast cereal, and other fruits of the industrial revolution. It is believed that this experience prompted John to include a design feature in the farmhouse for internal running water supplied by an elevated tank filled by a windmill. Otis later constructed a large reservoir in the house with plumbing to provide automatic water supplies for the livestock in the barn.

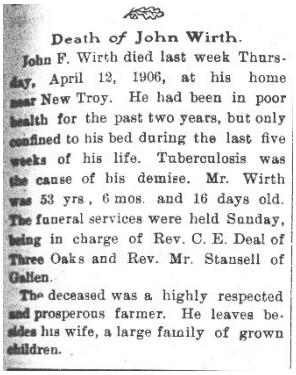
John is shown below on the wagon in front of his new barn and granary. His wife rose is in the carriage and sons Otis and Herbert are on the left. Based upon the age of Otis, this photo was taken in about 1900.

In about 1904, John began to suffer from tuberculosis. There being no antibiotics in those days, the disease slowly began to sap his strength and he probably knew the prognosis. A large auction of farm equipment and livestock was held on November 4, 1994. As shown in the appendix, the auction netted $847.45 with $320.30 spent by Otis, $28.00 spent by Herb, and the remainder spread between many neighbors. It is not clear whether this auction included all of John's assets or if some items were held back. No real estate was involved.

Living in the nearly finished farmhouse in 1905 was John and his wife Rose, and Otis and his new wife Rosemond. In addition, John's mother returned from OH in 1905 after the death of her

fourth husband, Gottlieb Behner[91]. She added a fifth member to the house, living in an upstairs bedroom occupied much later by two of the authors. His other son Herbert had married and was living elsewhere. The following is a photograph of the Wirth family in the summer/fall of 1905:

Shown here are (L/R) Clara (Herbs wife), Herbert, Anna Marie Behner holding Hazel (daughter of Clara and Herb), Rose, John, Otis and Rosemond (Otis' wife). The photo is dated by the age of Hazel, born in May, 1905 and the identity of the subject was provided by Jess Beckwith, grandson of Anna Marie.



Death of John Wirth.

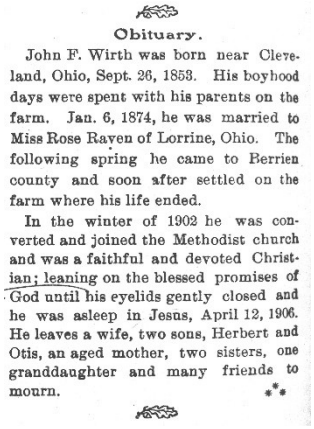
John F. Wirth died last week Thursday, April 12, 1906, at his home near New Troy. He had been in poor health for the past two years, but only confined to his bed during the last five weeks of his life. Tuberculosis was the cause of his demise. Mr. Wirth was 53 yrs, 6 mos. and 16 days old. The funeral services were held Sunday, being in charge of Rev. C. E. Deal of Three Oaks and Rev. Mr. Stansell of Galien.

The deceased was a highly respected and prosperous farmer. He leaves besides his wife, a large family of grown children.

John passed away the following spring: April 12, 1906. He was 53 years old. His probate file is included in the appendix. It indicates that he bequeaths the farm to his wife Rose with the stipulation that she takes good care of his mother Anna Marie (Mary) Behner for the rest of her life. Further, upon the death of his wife Rose, the farm is to be given to his son Otis with the proviso that Otis pays Herbert $3000 for his interest in the estate. The value of the estate was set at about $6400, with $6000 from the land and buildings.

[91] See chapter Gottlieb Behner.

John is buried in the New Troy Cemetery in a plot headed by a large monument dedicated to his brother Henry on one side and Frank Vetter on the other.

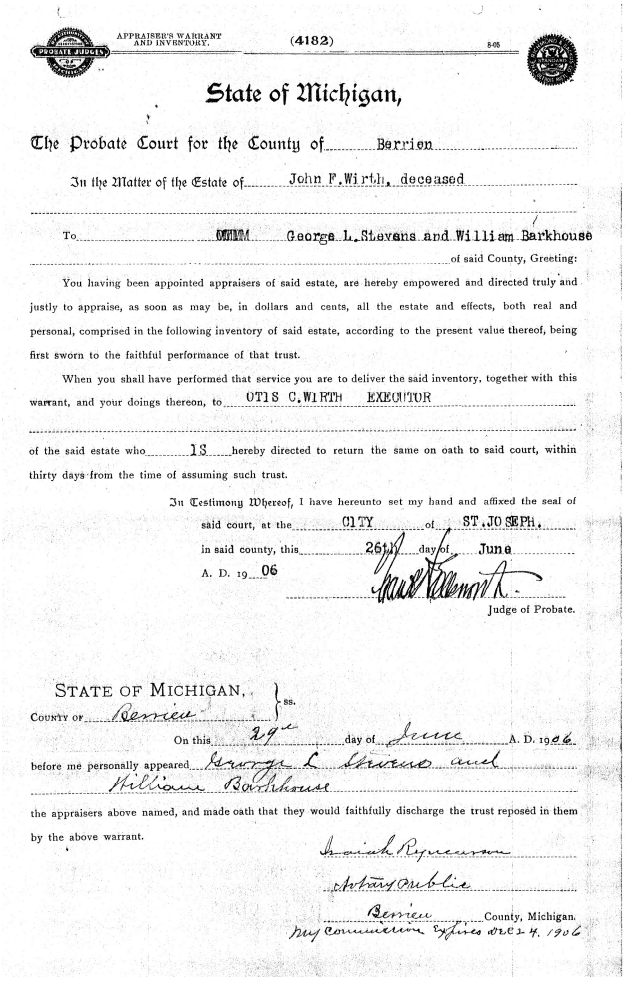


Obituary.

John F. Wirth was born near Cleveland, Ohio, Sept. 26, 1853. His boyhood days were spent with his parents on the farm. Jan. 6, 1874, he was married to Miss Rose Raven of Lorrine, Ohio. The following spring he came to Berrien county and soon after settled on the farm where his life ended.

In the winter of 1902 he was converted and joined the Methodist church and was a faithful and devoted Christian; leaning on the blessed promises of God until his eyelids gently closed and he was asleep in Jesus, April 12, 1906. He leaves a wife, two sons, Herbert and Otis, an aged mother, two sisters, one granddaughter and many friends to mourn. ***

Appendix – John Franklin Wirth Probate File (10 pages)



APPRAISER'S WARRANT AND INVENTORY. (4182) 805

PROBATE JUDGE'S SEAL

State of Michigan,

The Probate Court for the County of Berrien

In the Matter of the Estate of John F. Wirth, deceased

To OTIS George L. Stevens and William Barkhouse of said County, Greeting:

You having been appointed appraisers of said estate, are hereby empowered and directed truly and justly to appraise, as soon as may be, in dollars and cents, all the estate and effects, both real and personal, comprised in the following inventory of said estate, according to the present value thereof, being first sworn to the faithful performance of that trust.

When you shall have performed that service you are to deliver the said inventory, together with this warrant, and your doings thereon, to OTIS C. WIRTH EXECUTOR

of the said estate who IS hereby directed to return the same on oath to said court, within thirty days from the time of assuming such trust.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said court, at the CITY of ST. JOSEPH, in said county, this 26th day of June A. D. 19 06

Judge of Probate.

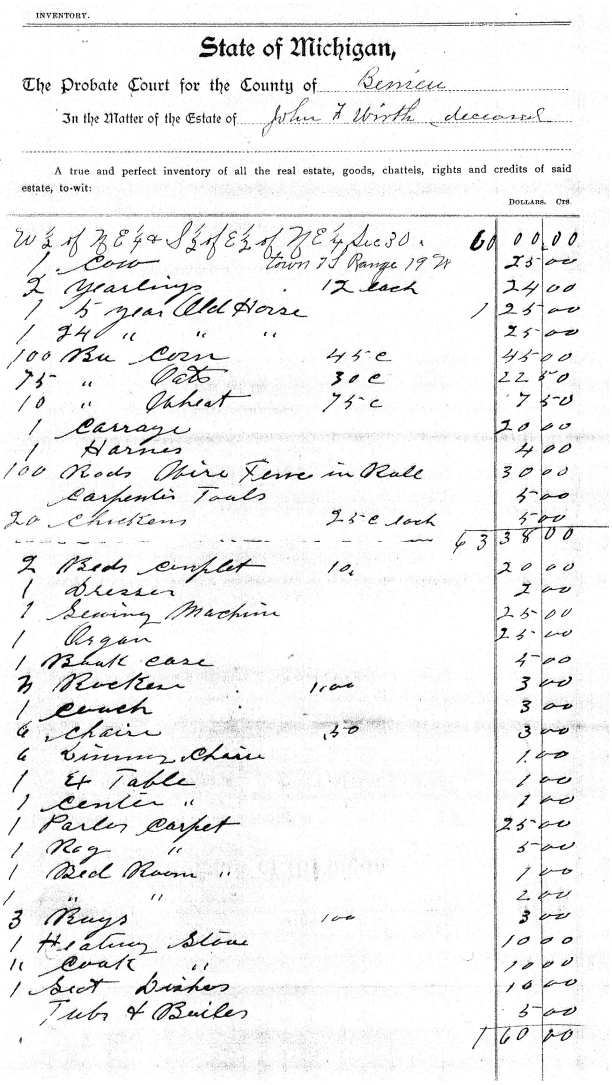
STATE OF MICHIGAN, } ss.
COUNTY OF Berrien }

On this 29th day of June A. D. 1906 before me personally appeared George L. Stevens and William Barkhouse the appraisers above named, and made oath that they would faithfully discharge the trust reposed in them by the above warrant.

Notary Public

Berrien County, Michigan.

My Commission Expires Dec. 4. 1906



INVENTORY.

State of Michigan,

The Probate Court for the County of Berrien

In the Matter of the Estate of John F. Wirth deceased

A true and perfect inventory of all the real estate, goods, chattels, rights and credits of said estate, to-wit:

			Dollars.	Cts.
W½ of NE¼ & S½ of E½ of NE¼ Sec 30, Town 7 S Range 19 W		60	00	00
1 Cow			25	00
2 Yearlings	12 each		24	00
1 5 year Old Horse		1	25	00
1 24 " " "			25	00
100 Bu Corn	45 c		45	00
75 " Oats	30 c		22	50
10 " Wheat	75 c		7	50
1 Carriage			20	00
1 Harness			4	00
100 Rods Wire Fence in Rolls			30	00
Carpenter Tools			5	00
20 Chickens	25 c each		5	00
		63	38	00
2 Beds complet	10		20	00
1 Dresser			7	00
1 Sewing Machine			25	00
1 Organ			25	00
1 Book case			4	00
3 Rockers	1 00		3	00
1 Couch			3	00
6 Chairs	50		3	00
6 Dining Chairs			1	50
1 Ex Table			1	00
1 Center "			1	00
1 Parlor Carpet			25	00
1 Rug "			5	00
1 Bed Room "			1	00
1 " "			2	00
3 Rugs	1 00		3	00
1 Heating Stove			10	00
1 Cook "			10	00
1 Set Dishes			10	00
Tubs & Buckets			3	00
		1	60	00

1 Set Dishes	10	00
Tubs & Boiler	5	00
	1 60	00
	64 98	00

We do hereby certify that we have truly and justly estimated and appraised all the estate exhibited to us and comprised in the foregoing inventory, according to the best of our skill and judgment, at the respective sums placed opposite each item therein mentioned.

Dated, this 30 day of June A. D. 1906

G. L. Stevens

Wm. P. Barkhouse

Appraisers.

WILL. (838) DILING BROS. & EVERARD, Stationers, Kalamazoo, Mich. 3-'02

Be It Remembered, That I, John F. Wirth of Weesaw Township, Berrien County Michigan being of sound mind and memory, but knowing the uncertainty of this life, do hereby make, execute, and declare this to be ***My Last Will and Testament,*** that is to say:

After the payment of my just debts and funeral charges, I give, devise and bequeath all my real and personal estate wherever situated, as follows:

First, I give and bequeath to my wife Rose E. Wirth during her life-time, the following described realty, The West half of the North East quarter and the south half of East half of North East quarter, all in Section Thirty (30) Town Seven (7) South, Range Nineteen (19) West, my wife to take good care of my mother-Mr Mary Behner, during her life.

After the death of my wife, Rose E. Wirth my son Otis L Wirth is to have the above described property, on the payment of Three Thousand dollars, ($3000.00) To Herbert F Wirth or his heirs, this is considered to be an equal division of all of my property.

My wife is to have two fifth of all grain that is raised on the place,

I do hereby appoint Otis C Wirth

the Executor of this my last Will and Testament.

I do hereby revoke any and every Will heretofore made by me.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this first day of March, in the year one thousand nine hundred and six.

John F. Wirth SEAL

On this first day of March, in the year one thousand nine hundred and six, John F. Wirth of Weesaw Township, Berrien County Michigan signed the foregoing Instrument, and declared the same to be his last Will and Testament, in the presence of us, as witnesses, and we, not being interested therein, at the request of said John F. Wirth and in his presence, and in the presence of each other, and where he could see us sign our names, did thereupon on said above mentioned day subscribe our names hereto as witnesses thereof.

Fred F. Tovernigh
residing at Three Oaks Michigan

Isaiah Rynearson
residing at Three Oaks Michigan

I further represent that the foregoing account contains a correct statement of all the goods, chattels, rights and credits of said estate which have come to my possession or knowledge and also of all expenditures and disbursements made by me for or on account of said estate

I therefore pray that the foregoing be allowed as my Final account.

Otis C Wirth
P. O. Three Oaks

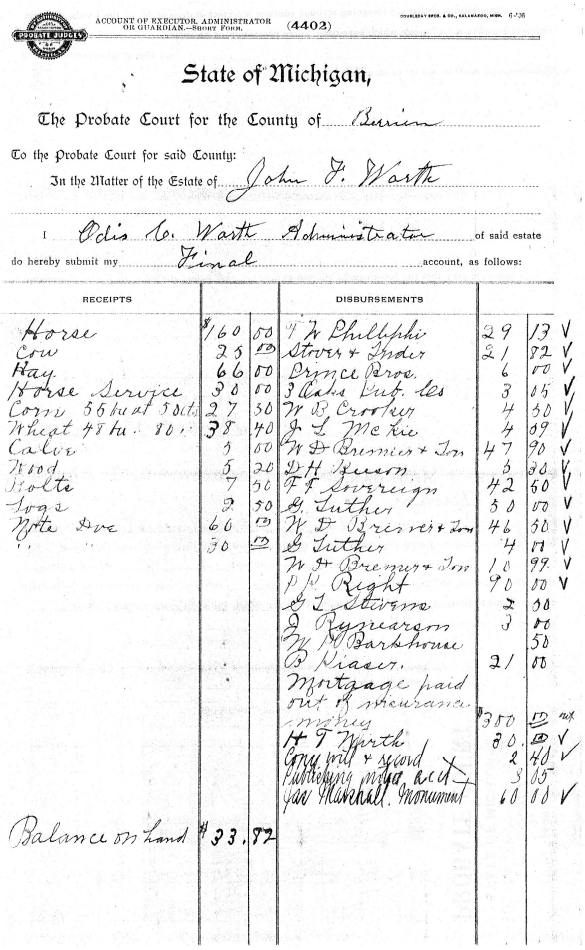
STATE OF MICHIGAN, } ss.
COUNTY OF Berrien

On this 31st day of August A. D. 1907 before me personally appeared the above named petitioner, who being duly sworn says that he has read the foregoing accounting and petition by himself signed, and knows the contents thereof, and that the same is true of his own knowledge, except as to the matters therein stated to be upon information and belief, and as to those matters he believes it to be true.

John Burkhart
Notary Public, Berrien County, Michigan.

My Commission expires March 26, 1910.

Room
(4402)
No. 3909
STATE OF MICHIGAN,
PROBATE COURT
-FOR THE-
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
STATE OF
John F. Wirth
Deed
Final
ACCOUNT OF
Filed SEP 4 1907 A. D. 19
Rolland C. Lowe
Register of Probate.
Notice
Published 4th Sep 1907



ACCOUNT OF EXECUTOR, ADMINISTRATOR OR GUARDIAN.—SHORT FORM. (4402)

PROBATE JUDGE'S

State of Michigan,

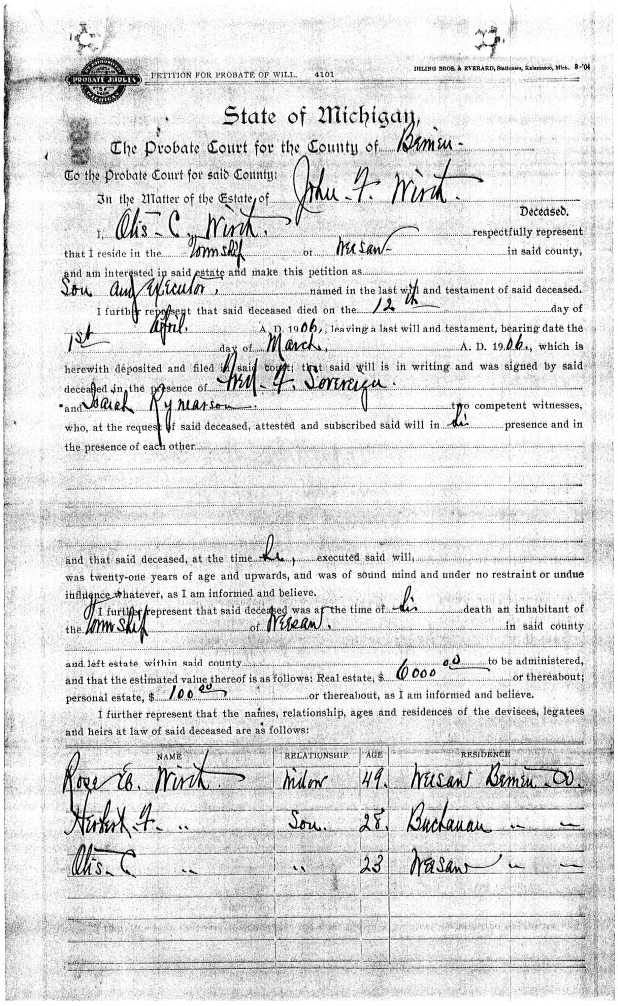
The Probate Court for the County of Berrien

To the Probate Court for said County:

In the Matter of the Estate of John F. Warth

I Odis C. Warth Administrator of said estate do hereby submit my Final account, as follows:

RECEIPTS			DISBURSEMENTS			
Horse	$160	00	F W Phillipki	29	13	V
Cow	25	00	Stover & Inder	21	82	V
Hay	66	00	Prince Bros.	6	00	V
Horse Service	30	00	3 Oaks Pub. Co	3	05	V
Corn 56 bu at 50 cts	27	50	W B Crooker	4	50	V
Wheat 48 bu " 80 "	38	40	J L McKie	4	09	V
Calve	5	00	W D Bremer & Son	47	90	V
Wood	5	20	D H Beeson	5	30	V
Bolts	7	50	F F Sovereign	42	50	V
Logs	2	50	G. Luther	50	00	V
Note Due	60	00	W D Bremer & Son	46	50	V
" "	30	00	G Luther	4	00	V
			W D Bremer & Son	10	99	V
			P P Right	90	00	V
			G L Stevens	2	50	
			J Rynearson	3	00	
			W P Barkhouse		50	
			B Kiaser.	21	00	
			Mortgage paid out of insurance money	$300	00	ex
			H T Wirth	30	00	V
			Copy will & record	2	40	V
			Publishing notice acct	3	05	
			Jas Marshall. Monument	60	00	V
Balance on hand	$33	82				



PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL. 4101

PROBATE JUDGE'S

State of Michigan,

The Probate Court for the County of Berrien

To the Probate Court for said County:

In the Matter of the Estate of John F. Wirth Deceased.

I, Otis C. Wirth respectfully represent that I reside in the Township of Weesaw in said county, and am interested in said estate and make this petition as Son and Executor, named in the last will and testament of said deceased.

I further represent that said deceased died on the 12th day of April A. D. 1906, leaving a last will and testament, bearing date the 1st day of March A. D. 1906, which is herewith deposited and filed in said court; that said will is in writing and was signed by said deceased in the presence of Fred F. Sovereign and Isaiah Rynearson two competent witnesses, who, at the request of said deceased, attested and subscribed said will in his presence and in the presence of each other

and that said deceased, at the time he, executed said will, was twenty-one years of age and upwards, and was of sound mind and under no restraint or undue influence whatever, as I am informed and believe.

I further represent that said deceased was at the time of his death an inhabitant of the Township of Weesaw in said county and left estate within said county to be administered, and that the estimated value thereof is as follows: Real estate, $ 6000.00 or thereabout; personal estate, $ 100.00 or thereabout, as I am informed and believe.

I further represent that the names, relationship, ages and residences of the devisees, legatees and heirs at law of said deceased are as follows:

NAME	RELATIONSHIP	AGE	RESIDENCE
Rose E. Wirth	Widow	49.	Weesaw Berrien Co.
Herbert F. "	Son.	28.	Buchanan " "
Otis C. "	"	23	Weesaw " "

I therefore pray that said instrument ..... now on file in said court, be admitted to probate and that the execution thereof and administration of said estate ..... be granted to Otis C. Wirth, the executor named in said will ..... or to some other suitable person.

Otis C. Wirth

P. O. 3 Oaks Mich.

State of Michigan, } ss.
County of Berrien, }

On this Ninth day of May A. D. 1906, before me personally appeared the above named petitioner, who being duly sworn says, that he has heard read the foregoing petition by him signed, and knows the contents thereof, and the same is true of his own knowledge, except as to the matters therein stated to be upon his information and belief, and as to those matters he believes it to be true.

Frank Ellsworth

Notary Public, Judge of Probate County, Mich.

Acorn

No. 4101 3909

STATE OF MICHIGAN.

PROBATE COURT

FOR THE

County of Berrien.

ESTATE OF

John F. Wirth

Deceased.

Petition for Probate of Will.

Filed May 9th A. D. 1906.

Frank Ellsworth

Judge of Probate.

Bond, $ Recorded 15 Wills Page 164

Hearing

PRINTER'S AFFIDAVIT (647) Ricaby & Smith, Printers, Benton Harbor

State of Michigan, }
County of Berrien. }

First Publication May 18, 1906.

PROBATE NOTICE.

STATE OF MICHIGAN, In the Probate Court for the County of Berrien.

At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office in the City of St. Joseph, in said County, on the 14th day of May, A. D. 1906.

Present: Hon. Frank H. Ellsworth, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of John F. Wirth Deceased.

Otis C. Wirth having filed in said court a petition praying that a certain instrument in writing, purporting to be the last will and testament of said deceased, now on file in said court be admitted to probate, and that the administration of said estate be granted to Otis C. Wirth, or to some other suitable person

It is Ordered, That the 11th day of June, A. D. 1906, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at said probate office, be and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition;

It is Further Ordered, That public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order, for three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing, in THE ACORN, a newspaper printed and circulated in said county.

A true copy. FRANK H. ELLSWORTH, Judge of Probate.

ROLLAND F. BARR, Register of Probate.

Last Publication June 8, 1906.

Lee W. Hovey

being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is hereby the printer and publisher of the Acorn a newspaper printed and published in the County of Berrien in said State, that the annexed printed notice has been duly published in said newspaper at least once each week for 3 successive weeks immediately preceding the day of hearing mentioned in said notice, and that the first insertion thereof was on the 18th day of May, 1906, and the last insertion on the 8th day of June, 1906

Lee W. Hovey

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 8th day of June, 1906

Morris G. McGowan
Notary Public

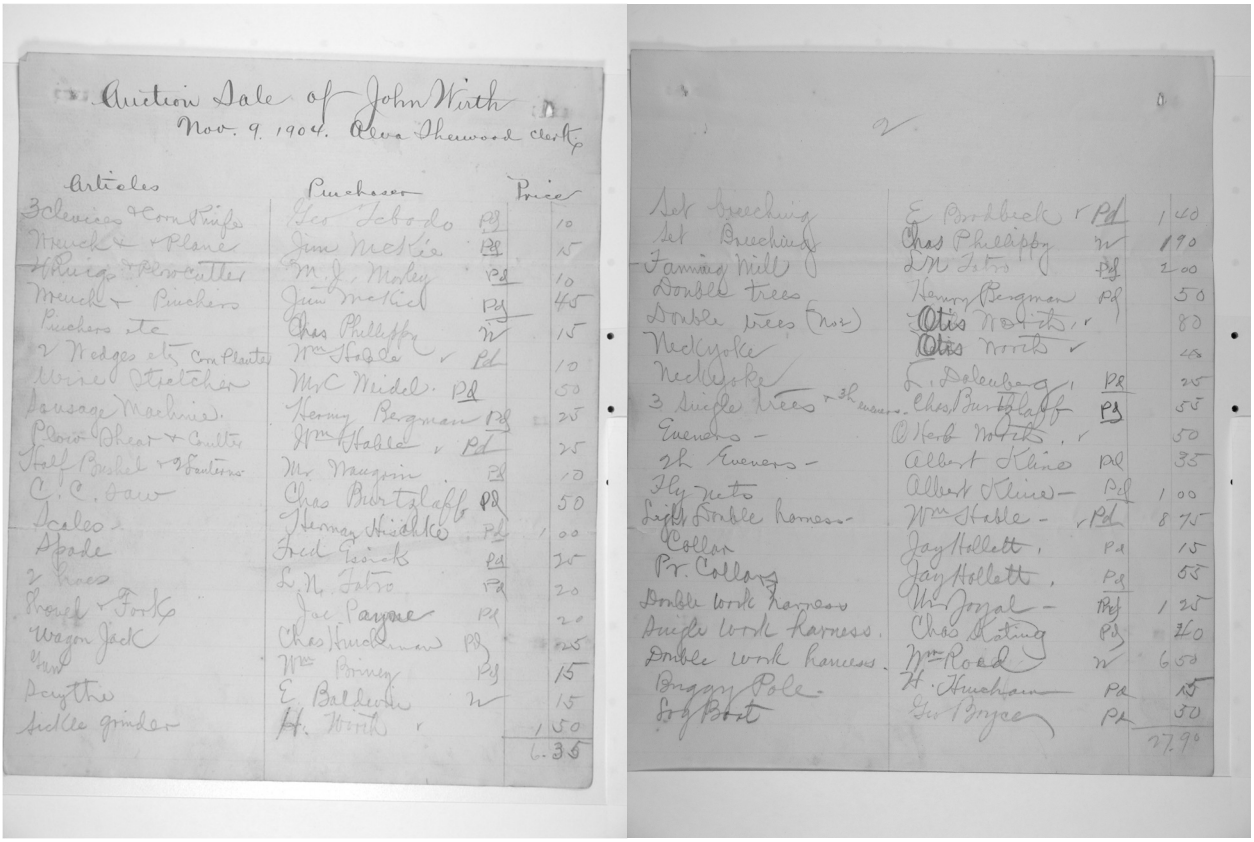
PRINTER'S BILL.

2 folios 3 times $ 3.05

Affidavit of Publication

Received payment, $

John F Wirth Auction Data

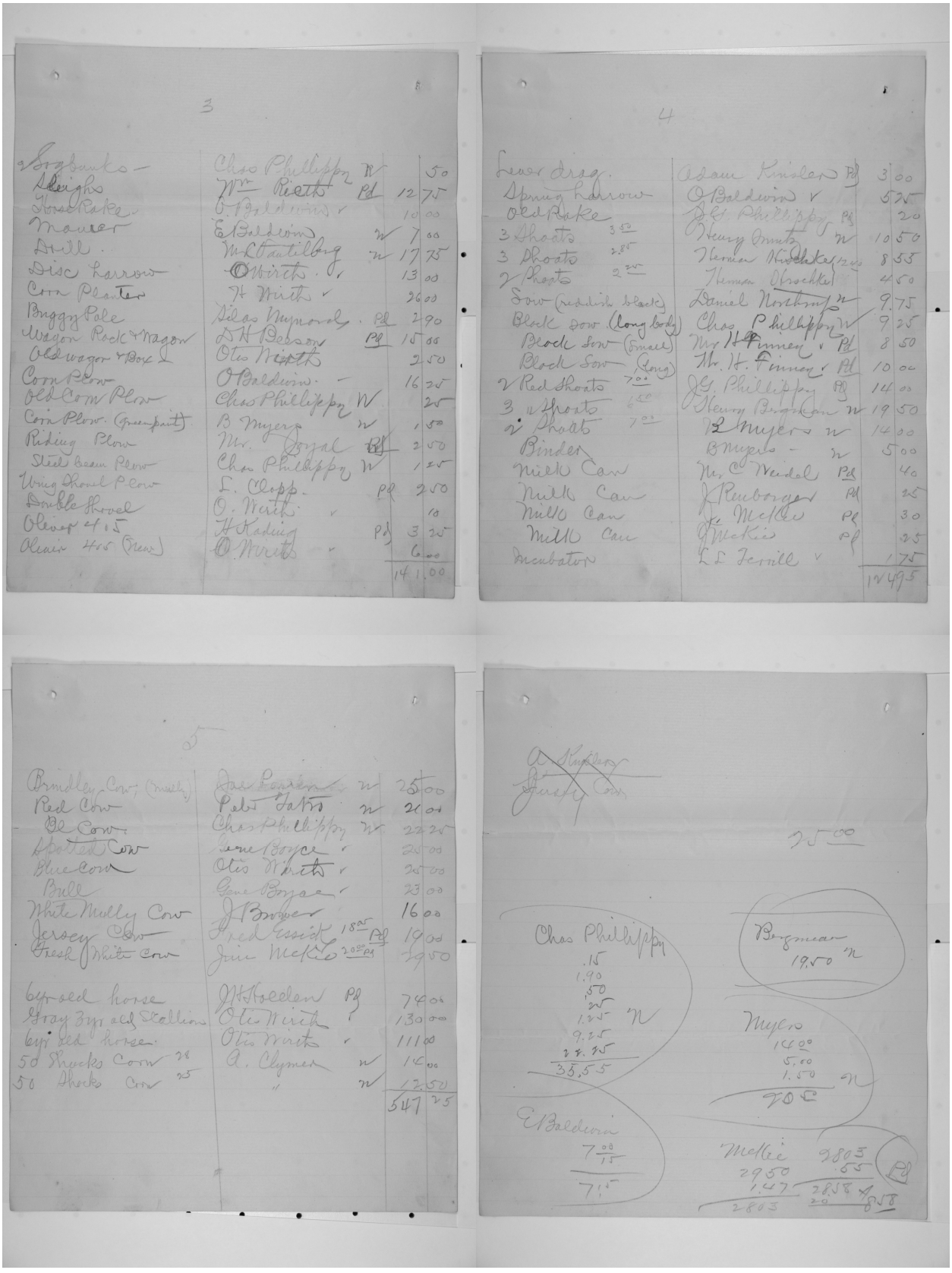


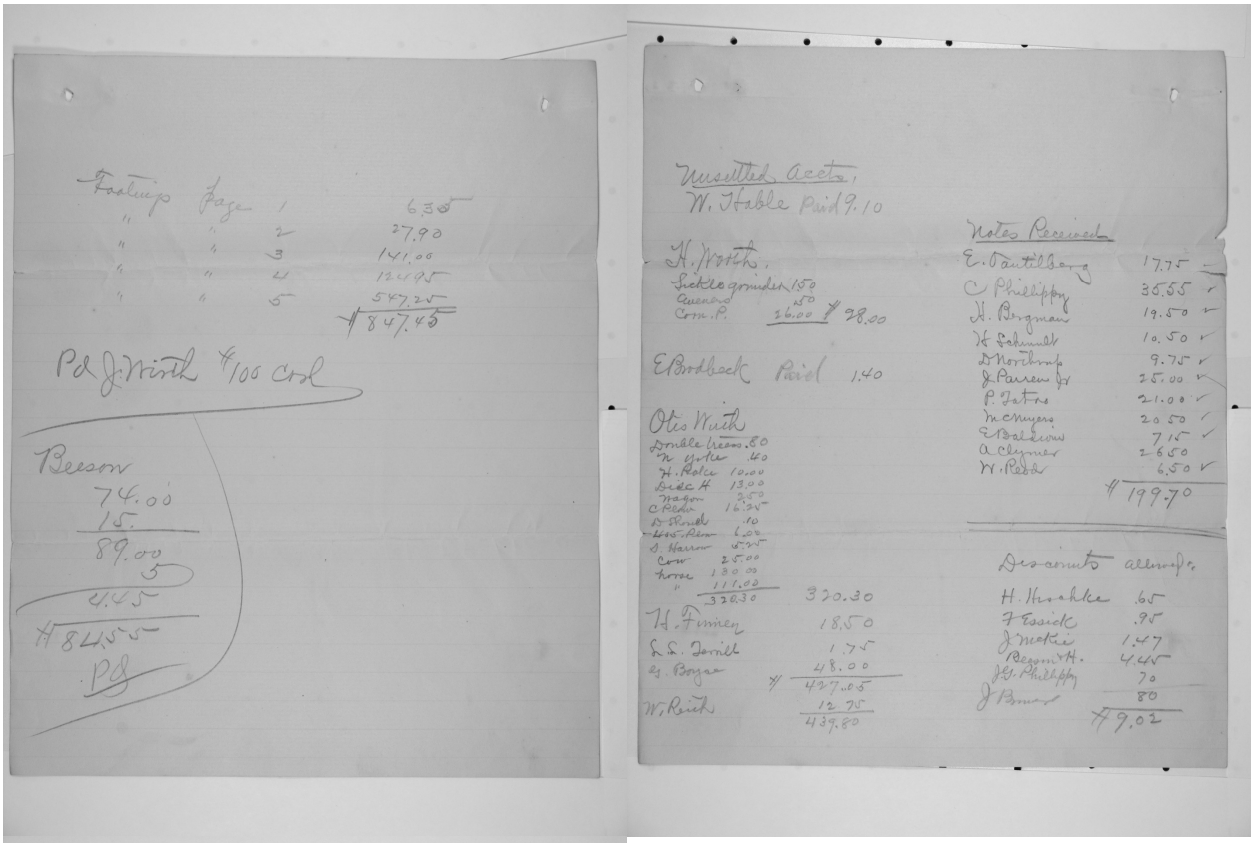
Auction Sale of John Wirth
Nov. 9. 1904. Alva Sherwood clerk

Articles	Purchaser		Price
3 Clevices & Corn Knife	Geo Tebodo	Pd	10
Wrench & Plane	Jim McKie	Pd	15
4 Rings & Plow Cutter	M. J. Morley	Pd	10
Wrench & Pinchers	Jim McKie	Pd	45
Pinchers etc	Chas Phillippy	N	15
2 Wedges etc Corn Planter	Wm Hable	Pd	10
Wire Stretcher	Mr C Weidel	Pd	50
Sausage Machine	Henry Bergman	Pd	25
Plow Shear & Coulter	Wm Hable	Pd	25
Half Bushel & 2 Lanterns	Mr Waugrin	Pd	10
C. C. Saw	Chas Burtzlaff	Pd	50
Scales	Herman Hischke	Pd	1 00
Spade	Fred Essick	Pd	25
2 Hoes	L. N. Tatro	Pd	20
Shovel & Fork	Joe Payne	Pd	20
Wagon Jack	Chas Hinchman	Pd	25
Gun	Wm Briney	Pd	15
Scythe	E. Baldwin	N	15
Sickle grinder	H. Wirth		1 50
			6.35

2

Set breeching	E Brodbeck	Pd	1 40
Set Breeching	Chas Phillippy	N	1 90
Fanning Mill	L N Tatro	Pd	2 00
Double trees	Henry Bergman	Pd	50
Double trees (No 2)	Otis Worth		80
Neckyoke	Otis Worth		40
Neckyoke	L. Dalenberg	Pd	25
3 Single trees & 3h eveners	Chas Burtzlaff	Pd	55
Eveners	O Herb Worth		50
2h Eveners	Albert Kline	Pd	35
Fly nets	Albert Kline	Pd	1 00
Light Double harness	Wm Hable	Pd	8 75
Collar	Jay Hollett	Pd	15
Pr. Collars	Jay Hollett	Pd	55
Double work harness	Mr Joyal	Pd	1 25
Single work harness	Chas Kating	Pd	40
Double work harness	Wm Road	N	6 50
Buggy Pole	H. Hinchman	Pd	15
Log Boat	Geo Boyce	Pd	50
			27.90





Footings page 1 6.35
" " 2 27.90
" " 3 141.00
" " 4 124.95
" " 5 547.25
$847.45

Pd J. Wirth $100 Cash

Beeson
74.00
15.
89.00
5
4.45
$84.55
Pd

Unsettled Accts.
W. Hable Paid 9.10

H. Worth.
Sickle grinder 1.50
Cavenors .50
Com. P. 26.00 $28.00

E Brodbeck Paid 1.40

Otis Wirth
Double trees .80
N Yoke .40
H. Roke 10.00
Disc H 13.00
Wagon 2.50
C Plow 16.25
D Shovel .10
405 Plow 6.00
S. Harrow 5.25
Cow 25.00
horse 130.00
" 111.00
320.30

H. Finney 18.50
L. L. Terrill 1.75
G. Boyce 48.00
$427.05
W. Reich 12.75
439.80

Notes Received
E. Tantilberg 17.75
C Phillippy 35.55
H. Bergman 19.50
H Schmidt 10.50
D Northrup 9.75
J Parrew Jr 25.00
P. Tatro 21.00
M C Myers 20.50
E Baldwin 7.15
A Clymer 26.50
W. Reed 6.50
$199.70

Discounts allowed.
H. Hischke .65
F Essick .95
J McKie 1.47
Beeson & H. 4.45
J.G. Phillippy .70
J Bruner .80
$9.02

Summary of Sale.
Total proceeds, see list $847.45

Unsettled Accts.
See List $439.80
Notes taken.
See List 199.70
Discounts allowed
See List 9.02
Cash Collected by clerk 198.93
$847.45 $847.45

Alva Sherwood. acct Sale.
To cash collected $198.93
By Pd. J. Wirth at Sale 100.00
Nov. 9. Balance on hand. $98.93
By Services as Clerk 2.50
Balance on hand = $96.43

Rose Elizabeth Raven | 1856-1933

Rose Elizabeth Raven was born on November 26, 1856 in or near Lorain, OH. She was the second child or Henry and Julia Miller-Raven as shown in the 1860 and 1870 census below. Her given name in these censuses is Rosetta which we assumed was a child's variation of the name Rose, the name shown in her death certificate. However, her Memorial Record from the Swem Mortuary shows the name Rosetta and further indicates that she was a member of the June Rebekah Lodge of Gendora, MI, #368.

1860 Census, Lorain Co., Black River Twp., OH
Ravens, Henry, 40, Farmer, $360 Real Estate +$200 Personal,
born Baden, Gr.
Julia Ann, 24, born Baden, Gr.
Adam H., 6, born OH
Rosetta, 3, born OH

1870 Census, De Kalb Co., Washington Twp., MO
Wallace, William, 29, Farmer, born NY, Parents foreign born
Julia, 32, keeping house, born Germany, Parents foreign born
Raven, Rosetta, 14, born OH, going to school, cannot write
Raven, Francis, 7, born OH, going to school
Wallace, Elizabeth, 3, born Canada, Parents foreign born

Sometime in the 1860s, Rose's father died (divorced, or abandons the family) and her mother married William Wallace. The family then moves to Missouri as indicated in the above census before returning to the Lorain area in the early 1870s as described more fully in chapter THE WALLACE LINE. Very little is known about Rose's early life other than what is captured in these census entries.

The way in which Rose ultimately met and married her husband John Franklin Wirth is a bit serendipitous as many marriages are. Wirth's father died and his mother married Jacob Vetter, a widower from the Lorain area. Consequently Jacob was familiar with the Lorain area and had children by his first wife living there. It is likely, therefore, that Vetter and Wirth's mother knew of a marriageable Rose Raven from Lorain who might be a prospective mate for John Franklin. It is also possible that the Vetter association with the Evangelical Association religious network may have been involved also.

On January 6, 1876, Rose and John Franklin Wirth were married. While a marriage photo of the two of them has not been found, a photo showing John with Rose's brother Adam Raven is shown in Chapter JOHN FRANKLIN WIRTH. The earliest photograph of Rose is dated about 1886 showing her and her husband with her two children Herbert and Otis. The photo is believed to have been taken in Ohio since the paper composition frame (not shown) indicates that it was processed in Cleveland, OH. Rose and other family members traveled back and forth between Michigan and Ohio quite frequently over the years, made possible by the expanding rail road network.

Their marriage was not off to an auspicious start. Family lore indicates that after their marriage, Rose and her belongings were brought from the train railhead at Avery[92] on a mud boat made of two runners covered by planks and pulled by horses. It was used because the roads or paths were very muddy at the time, precluding the use of a wagon or carriage.

When she arrived in Michigan, she may have stayed first at the Vetter farm of her mother-in-law, or in a log cabin built by Wirth on what would become their homestead. It is not clear if the cabin was built before or after the marriage. Ultimately, however, their home became the cabin built just to the north of the frame home built later in 1905 and shown in the photo below.

Rural life in this timeframe was very physical. Land had to be cleared for planting gardens and orchards. Produce had to be canned and preserved for the long winters. A pole barn[93] was built to house farm animals and store hay and grain. It was a rugged life but they seemed to survive fairly well as indicated by the above photo of their young family in about 1885.

The next surviving photograph of Rose was taken in about 1900. It is shown in Chapter JOHN FRANKLIN WIRTH and shows Rose in a horse drawn surrey with her family and the newly built farm buildings in the background. Then, in about 1908, she is shown holding Lois Wirth, her granddaughter in front of her new frame farmhouse.

[92] Avery was a small group of houses, barns, storage buildings, etc. located on the railroad about a mile east of the present town of Three Oaks, MI. It may have preceded the settlement of Three Oaks. No remnants of the settlement exist today.

[93] The pole barn was located about 70 ft. directly in front of the present house shown above. Depressions in the present lawn attest to its location.

Numerous other photos showing Rose with her family have been retained. Below is a selection which documents her appearance over the remaining years of her life.

The photo above shows Rose in about 1914 with her grandchildren Lois (left) and Clarence Wirth. On the right above is a photo of Rose with Lois taken in about 1916. This suggests that she had arthritic hands in that they appear a bit knobby. Also, note the bracelet on Lois arm. This was retained by Lois until her death, and then kept by her adopted son Gene Watson. Gene's wife then returned it to the Wirth family in 2014. It is engraved "R W" indicating that it belonged initially to Rose but was probably given to Lois when she was about 10 years old.

The adjacent photo shows Rose with her eldest son Herbert, her granddaughter Hazel, and her great grandchildren Clara (b. 2/24/27) and Dwayne (b 2/27/26). The ages of the children indicates that the photo was taken in about 1931, probably in Idaho.

In the early 1930s, before the marriage of her grandson Clarence and Dorothy O'Barton, Dorothy remembers sleeping over at the Wirth home. She slept with Rose in her big feather bed that was located in the front bedroom on the first floor of the farmhouse shown above.

By most reports, Rose was a formidable woman. When her husband died, she inherited the Wirth farm and, with her son Otis, ran it with an iron hand. Her daughter-in-law Rosemond remembered her looking out the window and saying "all mine as long as I live" as if to remind Rosemond that she was totally in charge. Rosemond was said to reply in response "the lawn needs mowing and I will do it." Presumably because of this experience with Rose, Rosemond insisted that she and Otis move out of the farm house soon after Clarence and Dorothy were married.

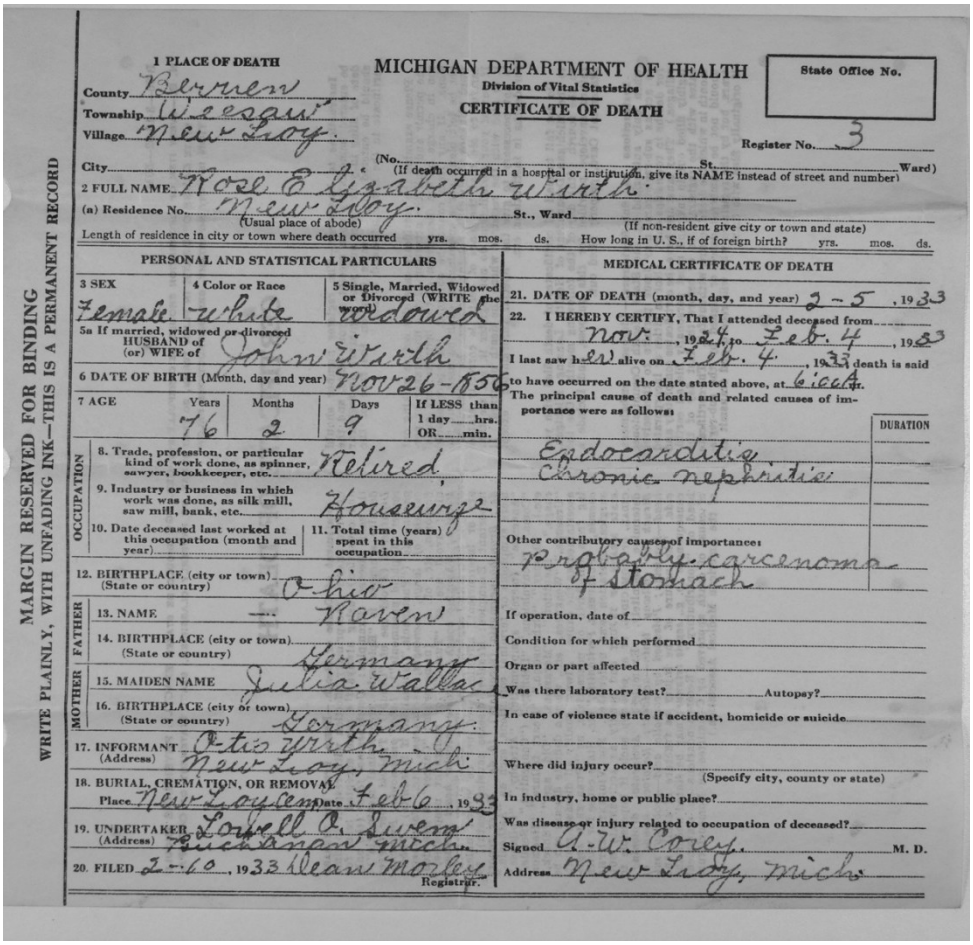
After the death of Rose's husband, she took care of her mother-in-law (Anna Marie nee Roth, aka Mary) for several years until Anna's death in 1912. She also provided room and board for her own mother (Julia Miller) for a period from 1911 to 1915. However, when her mother Julia died, Rose filed claims in her mother's probate filing which were just sufficient to capture all of her mother's assets, leaving nothing for her mother's other heirs. This may have been justified since her mother had no known source of income once she became aged and was no longer able to make a living. However, there was little family interaction thereafter between these heirs, many of whom lived nearby the Wirth home.

Rose passed away on February 5, 1933 at age 76. She is buried in the family plot in New Troy Cemetery. Her death certificate is shown below. Her cause of death appears to be an inflammation of the heart lining (or possibly her heart valves) and chronic kidney infection. She may have had cancer of the stomach as well.

It is curious that her funeral preparation was performed by the Swen Mortuary in Buchanan which was more distant than, say, one in Three Oaks or Bridgman.

Images of the Memorial Record from the Swen Mortuary are shown below after the death certificate. The first page shows that she was born in Black River, OH. Black River a township in Lorain County, OH which may indicate that she was born in a rural area, not in the town of Lorain itself. Her service was performed by a Rev. Conklin of Hasting, MI at the M.E. Church in New Troy with the present minister of that church assisting. This suggests that Rev. Conklin was probably the prior minister of the New Troy church.

The Memorial Record did not show record the funeral attendance but it can be assumed that the record of floral offerings is a good indication of the attendees. Many of the names are familiar to the authors of this genealogy through family discussions or by youthful memories.



MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING
WRITE PLAINLY, WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD

1 PLACE OF DEATH
County Berrien
Township Lincoln
Village New Troy.
City
(No. St. Ward)
(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number)

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Division of Vital Statistics
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

State Office No.
Register No. 3

2 FULL NAME Rose Elizabeth Wirth.
(a) Residence No. New Troy. St., Ward
(Usual place of abode)
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. mos. ds. How long in U. S., if of foreign birth? yrs. mos. ds.
(If non-resident give city or town and state)

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3 SEX: Female
4 Color or Race: White
5 Single, Married, Widowed or Divorced (WRITE the word): Widowed
5a If married, widowed or divorced HUSBAND of (or) WIFE of: John Wirth
6 DATE OF BIRTH (Month, day and year): Nov 26-1856
7 AGE: Years 76 | Months 2 | Days 9 | If LESS than 1 day hrs. OR min.

OCCUPATION
8. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as spinner, sawyer, bookkeeper, etc.: Retired
9. Industry or business in which work was done, as silk mill, saw mill, bank, etc.: Housewife
10. Date deceased last worked at this occupation (month and year)
11. Total time (years) spent in this occupation

12. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or country): Ohio

FATHER
13. NAME: Otis Raven
14. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or country): Germany

MOTHER
15. MAIDEN NAME: Julia Wallace
16. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or country): Germany.

17. INFORMANT (Address): Otis Wirth New Troy, Mich.
18. BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL: Place New Troy Cem. Date Feb 6, 1933
19. UNDERTAKER (Address): Lowell A. Swem Buchanan Mich.
20. FILED 2-6-33, 1933 Dean Morley Registrar.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

21. DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) 2-5, 1933
22. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from Nov. 1924 to Feb. 4, 1933
I last saw her alive on Feb. 4, 1933 death is said to have occurred on the date stated above, at 6 o'clock P.M.
The principal cause of death and related causes of importance were as follows:

	DURATION
Endocarditis	
Chronic nephritis	

Other contributory causes of importance:
Probably carcenoma of Stomach

If operation, date of
Condition for which performed
Organ or part affected
Was there laboratory test? Autopsy?
In case of violence state if accident, homicide or suicide
Where did injury occur? (Specify city, county or state)
In industry, home or public place?
Was disease or injury related to occupation of deceased?
Signed C. W. Corey. M. D.
Address New Troy, Mich.

In Memory of

Rosetta Elizabeth Wirth

Born

Nov. 26, 1856
DATE

Black River, Ohio
PLACE

Entered into Rest

Feb. 5, 1933 (Sunday)
DATE

at home south
PLACE

of New Troy

Age

76 YEARS 2 MONTHS 9 DAYS

Services

Home 2:00 P.M.
PLACE

M.E. Church

2:30 P.M.

Feb. 10, 1933
TIME AND DATE

Officiating

Rev. Conklin of
Hastings, Mich.

Assisted by

Rev. Niles of New Troy

Song Selections

"Some Day I'll
Understand"

"City Four
Squares"

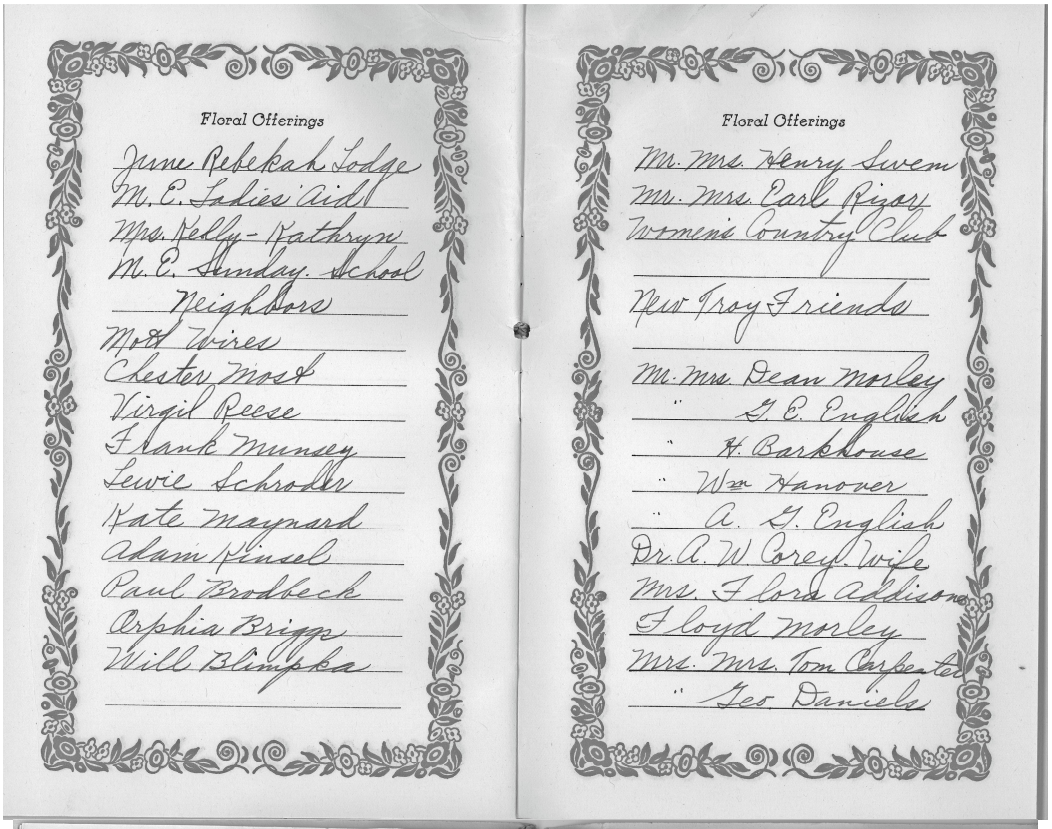
Rendered By

Mrs. Merritt
Harper, assisted
by Mrs. Alma
Pokley

Bearers

Mott Wires
Chester Most
Henry Barkhouse
Henry Goodharline
Will Blimpkha
Albert Kline

Honorary Bearers

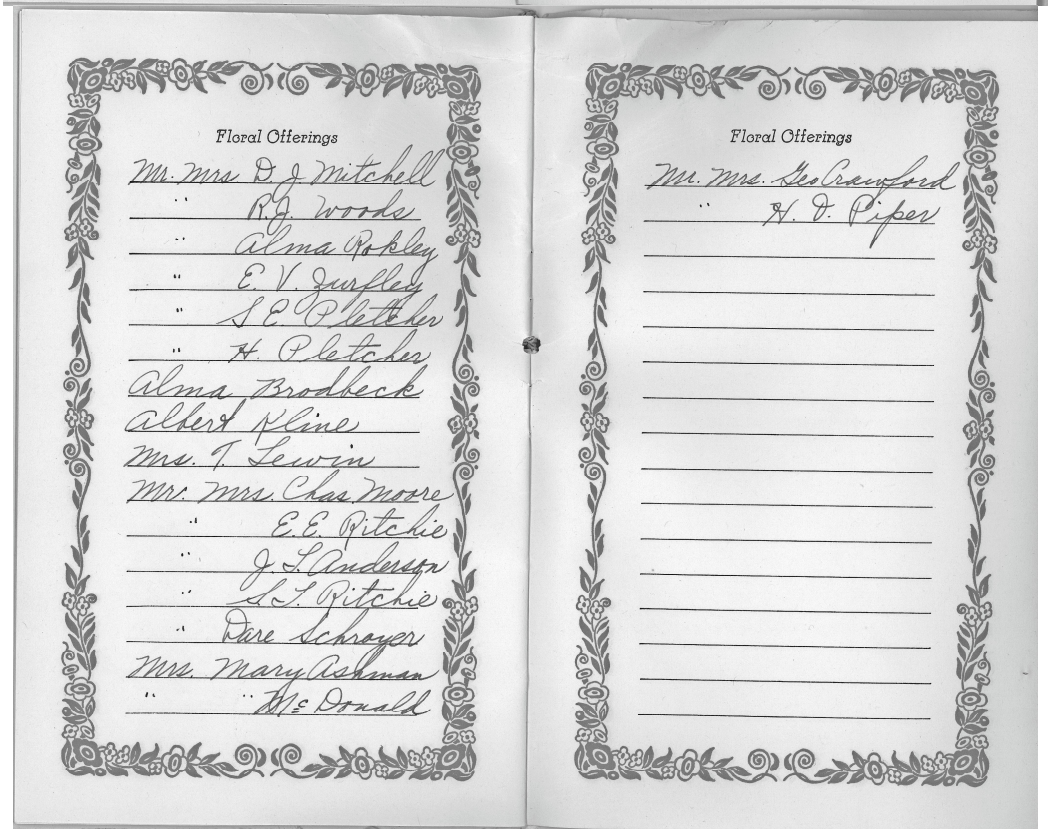


Floral Offerings

June Rebekah Lodge
M. E. Ladies' Aid
Mrs. Kelly - Kathryn
M. E. Sunday School
Neighbors
Mort Wires
Chester Mort
Virgil Reese
Frank Munsey
Lewie Schrader
Kate Maynard
Adam Kinsel
Paul Brodbeck
Orphia Briggs
Will Blimpka

Floral Offerings

Mr. Mrs. Henry Suvem
Mr. Mrs. Carl Rizer
Women's Country Club
New Troy Friends
Mr. Mrs. Dean Morley
" G. E. English
" H. Barkhouse
" Wm Hanover
" A. G. English
Dr. A. W. Corey. Wife
Mrs. Flora Addison
Floyd Morley
Mr. Mrs. Tom Carpenter
" Geo. Daniels



Floral Offerings

Mr. Mrs. D. J. Mitchell
" R. J. Woods
" Alma Robley
" E. V. Durfley
" S. E. Pletcher
" H. Pletcher
Alma Brodbeck
Albert Kline
Mrs. T. Lewin
Mr. Mrs. Chas Moore
" E. E. Ritchie
" J. L. Anderson
" L. L. Ritchie
" Dare Schroyer
Mrs. Mary Ashman
" " McDonald

Floral Offerings

Mr. Mrs. Geo Crawford
" H. D. Piper

The Raven Line

HENRY RAVEN AND JULIA MILLER

Henry Raven and Julia Miller are g-g-grandparents of the authors of this genealogy. Little is known about Henry other than what is indicated in the 1860 census below. He was apparently born in about 1820 in or around Baden, Gr. and probably came to the USA within a few years of Julia's family since he has not been found in the 1850 census of any state. Searches of ship manifests show several candidates, but none have the right birth date. One such candidate was John Henry Ravens who arrived in Philadelphia in 1853[94]. The complete record showing his date of birth, etc., has not been obtained.

1860 Census, Lorain Co., Black River Twp., OH
Ravens, Henry, 40, Farmer, $360 Real Estate +$200 Personal,
born Baden, Gr.
Julia Ann, 24, born Baden, Gr.
Adam H., 6, born OH
Rosetta, 3, born OH

A more complete documentation of Julia Miller is contained in another chapter entitled JULIA ANN MILLER which is devoted to her alone. The remainder of this chapter is about the other two children of their union, Adam and Frances Raven. These children and their descendants were traced in the hope that those living at the time this document is written might have retained information about the authors' ancestors.

A. ADAM HENRY RAVEN AND EMMA NOTHAM

Adam Henry Raven, the eldest child of Julia and Henry Raven, was born in or near the present town of Lorain, OH, on June 8, 1854[95], and was raised to young adulthood in that area. After the death or departure of his father, his mother married William S. Wallace and moved to Missouri. Adam accompanied them to MO[96] and returned with them in the early 1870s to the Lorain area. Ultimately, he became acquainted with Emma Notham, the eldest child of George and Harriet Notham[97] who lived in nearby Brownhelm Township. Adam and Emma were married in Lorain Co., OH sometime in the mid-1870s, probably in 1875 or 1876. They raised six children, five of whom were born in OH and one in Michigan[98].

Emma Notham was born in Brownhelm Twp., Lorain Co., OH. This township is located SW of the town of Lorain on Lake Erie. The Notham family appears to be of German ancestry (see census data below) as is the Raven family and would likely have been associated with the

[94] Record compiled by WPA project No. 20837, Harrisburg Penn. Historical Commission, 25 Vols. In 11, Vol. 9. Letter R, 191p. Page 22.
[95] Wirth family ledger book
[96] He is found working on an adjacent farm in the 1870 MO census.
[97] See the 1860 and 1870 censuses of Brownhelm Twp., Lorain Co.
[98] See 1900 census below

German community near Lorain referred to in Chapter THE WALLACE LINE. Emma is shown in the 1860 and 1870 census summarized as follows:

1960 Census of Lorain Co., Brownhelm Twp.,
Geo. Notham, 26, born Hessa Cassel
Harriet, 21, born NJ
Emma, 3, born Ohio

1870 Census of Lorain Co., Brownhelm Twp.
Notham, George, 35, Works on Farm, $400 real estate, $350 personal estate, born Hesse Cassel
Harriet, 29, Keeping House, born NJ
Emma, 12, born Ohio
John, 8, born Ohio
Osgood, Addie, 24, Housekeeper

Adam and Emma were married in Lorain Co., Ohio and are found in the 1880 census as follows:

1880 Census of Lorain Co., Ohio
Raven, Adam, 25, born Ohio
Emma, 22, born Ohio
George 4[99]*, born Ohio*
Hattie, 1, born Ohio

Sometime between 1880 and 1900, Adam and family moved from Ohio to New Troy, Michigan as indicated by their entry in the 1900 Michigan census. The reason for this move is not clear, but his mother, Julia, had moved there in 1889 according to the obituary of George Wallace shown in Chapter THE WALLACE LINE and his sister Rose had moved there in about 1876 after marrying John F. Wirth. The family is found next in the 1900 census:

1900 Census of Berrien Co., Weesaw Twp., MI
Raven Adam; b. June, 1854; 45; married 23 yrs.; born OH; parents born Germany; reads, writes and speaks English; farmer; rents
Emma; b. July 1857; 42; married 23 yrs.; bore 6 children, all living; born Ohio; mother and father born Ohio
Hattie; b. Aug. 1879; 20; born Ohio
Harry; b. Sept. 1882; 17, born Ohio
Unintelligible; b. Aug. 1883; 16; born Ohio
Mabel; b. Sept. 1887; 12; born Ohio

[99] Their first son, George Wm. Raven, was born on September 23, 1876 according to birth records of Lorain County as found in LDS film # 1294334.

Unintelligible; b. Jan. 1892, 8, born Michigan

From other records, the "unintelligible" entries above are believed to be Myrtle and James, respectively. The birth dates shown in this census are suspect because they differ from those shown later in the obituaries and social security data for several of the Raven children. These dates will have to be verified through other sources.

Adam's obituary shown below indicates that the family moved from New Troy, MI to the La Porte, IN area shortly after 1900. The obituary also states that Emma died in approximately 1906, probably in La Porte, although no record of her death has been found as of this writing. Adam is found again in the 1910 census in La Porte as follows:

1910 census of La Porte Co., Center Twp., Indiana

Raven, Adam; 55, born Ohio; parents born Germany; works in carriage factory

Mary; wife; 20, born Indiana, father born Penn. Mother born MO

This census entry is strange in that there is no other record of Adam marrying a second time. Mary could be a housekeeper who was misidentified by the census taker.

The 1920 census of La Porte Co. shows Adam living with his daughter Mabel (Mayble) and husband Gary Moore. That census shows Adam as being 63 years old and a laborer in a shop. Adam is also found in the 1930 census. He has fallen on bad times, because he is in the La Porte County Poor Asylum even though several of his children lived nearby. It shows his age as 75 and his age when he was first married as 22.

It should be noted that the 1920-1940 period was very difficult for many people. The crash of 1929 and the following great depression were the most dramatic events, but it was generally a time when family fortunes were lost or greatly diminished. There is little wonder that many older people, like Adam, ended up in the poor house.

When Adam's mother, Julia, died in 1915, her obituary[100] indicated that Adam lived in Berrien Springs, MI. In addition, the 1917 Farmer Journal Rural Directory of Berrien Co., MI, shows an Adam Raven, farmer, at Rt. 2, Royalton Twp., Berrien Co., MI. Perhaps Adam owned a farm there but lived in La Porte most of the time. Adam is also mentioned in the Acorn, a newspaper published in Three Oaks, MI, as being from La Porte and visiting his mother and sister on the farm near New Troy on Nov. 11, 1915, just prior to his mother's death.

Adam died on January 12, 1934 and is buried in an unmarked grave, presumably in Patton Cemetery.

Obituary of Adam Henry Raven

[100] See Chapter JULIA MILLER

Funeral services for Adam Henry Raven, 82, who died yesterday at Fairview Hospital, will be held Monday afternoon at the Haverstock Funeral Chapel. Rites will be private, with the Rev. F. G. Kenney, pastor of the First Baptist Church officiating. Burial will be at the Patton Cemetery with O. M. Haverstock in charge.

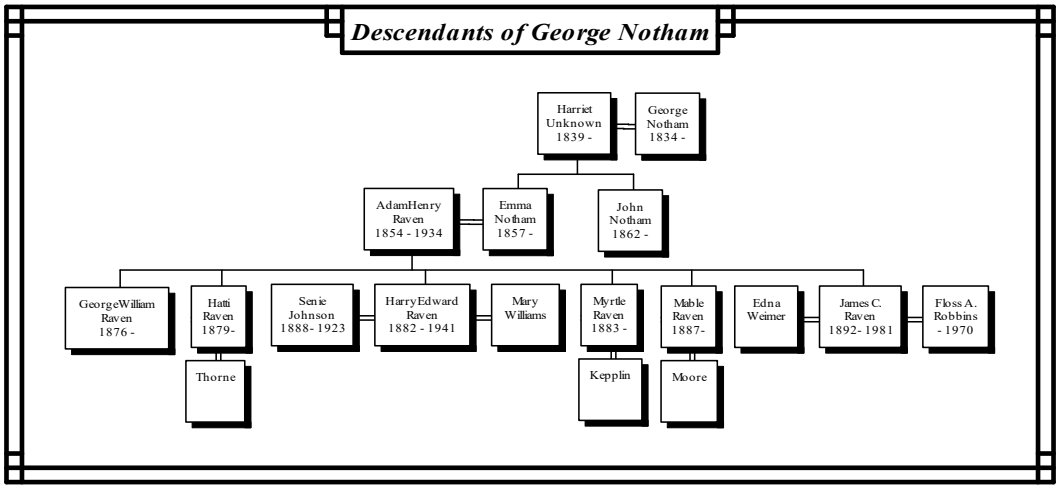
Mr. Raven was born in Lorain, Ohio, June 8, 1852, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Raven. He came to La Porte 35 years ago from New Troy, MI. Sixty years ago he was united in marriage at Lorain with Emma Knotham (sic Notham), who died 27 years ago. He was a member of the Methodist Church.

Surviving are three daughters: Mrs. Hattie Thorne, Elkhart; Mrs. Myrtle Kepplin, Riverhurst, Canada; Mrs. Mabel Moore, La Porte; three sons; George R. of Mishawaka; Harry R. of Buchanan; and James of La Porte; 21 grand children; 10 great grand children; and one brother, George Wallace of Galien, MI.

Mr. Haverstock and not Cutter Brothers, as erroneously stated in yesterday's Herald-Argus, will be in charge of the funeral.

The La Porte Daily Herald-Argus, Saturday, January 13, 1934, Page 2

Although his obituary indicates that he is buried in Patton Cemetery, his grave site has not been located because records from this period have been lost. It is likely that Emma is also buried there, but that is peculation. The age and year of birth given in this obituary appear to be questionable. The Wirth ledger and the earlier census data suggest that he was born in 1854, not 1852, and was therefore 79 when he died. His daughter Hatti's married name is shown as Thorn, not Thorne, in the 1930 census, and Mabel is shown as Mayble in that census as well. Older people in Riverhurst, Canada, a small town of about 150 people today, have no recollection of a Kepplin family which suggests that Myrtle may have moved on sometime between the death of her father in 1934 and the death of her sister Mayble in 1958. The following graphic begins with Emma's parents and shows Adam and Emma Raven's family and the spouses of most of their children.



The photo below is one of two known photos of Adam Raven in the Wirth family archive, the first being shown in Chapter JOHN FRANKLIN WIRTH where Adam appears with John F. Wirth in what is thought to be a wedding-related photo. The second photo is shown below. It was taken at the Wirth family home located about 3 miles South of New Troy, Michigan. Shown in the photo are, from left to right, James Raven (youngest son of Adam Raven), Otis Wirth, Adam Raven, Lois Wirth (eldest child of Otis Wirth and wife Rosemond), Rosetta (Rose) Raven-Wirth, and Rosemond Smith-Wirth[101]. Judging from the age of Lois, who was born in 1906, this photo was probably taken in 1908 or 1909. Rose Raven-Wirth and Adam are brother and sister, and Otis is the son of Rose and John Franklin Wirth who was deceased at the time of this photo. In chapter JULIA ANN MILLER it was noted that Julia Miller-Raven-Wallace, Adam's mother, died at the Wirth family home in 1915. The room in which she lived prior to her death is just above the porch on the left side of this photo. The side and roof-line of this room is just barely visible.

[101] Identification of the people in this photo was made by Clarence Wirth in a video tape recorded by author Gary R. Wirth in about 1980. Clarence is the son of Otis and Rosemond Wirth.

From left to right,
close-up view of
James Raven, Otis Wirth
and Adam Raven
Circa 1908[102]

An extensive family tree for Adam Raven's family has been developed and shared with several of his descendants. It is shown in outline form in the appendix to this chapter. One unique aspect of this search was the identification of an adoption which occurred in about 1923. One of Adam's sons, Harry, had 6 children, the youngest born on February 11, 1923. Shortly thereafter, Harry's wife Senie died, leaving Harry with the infant and a very large family to support. He chose to give the infant up for adoption. Somehow, the author's mother, Dorothy, remembered the case and that the infants adopted name was Harry Briney and he lived in the St. Joseph-Benton Harbor area of Michigan. Her memory may have resulted from a Briney being a teacher in New Troy or Bridgman High School. In any case, the identification led to a reunion between the children of Harry Raven-Briney and several other descendants of Adam Raven.

C. FRANCES RAVEN-EMERY AND JAMES WESLEY EMERY

Frances Raven, the youngest child of Henry and Julia Raven, married James Emery in about 1883 in Ohio. James was born in Canada and can be found in the 1880 census at age 21 living in Lorain Twp., Lorain Co., Ohio, in what appears to be a boarding house in the town of Lorain. She and James apparently moved about somewhat after their marriage in that their children were born in Pennsylvania as well as Ohio, according to census data. They had three daughters, Lucy, Lois and Ruth, with Lucy born in OH, Lois born in Pennsylvania, and Ruth born in OH. The census of 1900 is shown below:

1900 Census of Mansfield Ward 2, Richland Co, OH
Emery, James; 41, born Feb., 1859; born Canada, immigrated 1866;

[102] ibid

married 17 yrs.; foreman in plant
Frances, 36, born Aug., 1863; born OH
Lucy H.; 16; born Sept. 1883; born OH
Lois E.; 14; born Dec. 1885; born OH(Penn??)
Ruth E.; 7; born Dec. 1892; born OH

The photo on the right is believed to be of Francis as a young woman. By the time of the 1910 census, several events have occurred in the Emery family. Frances died on April 7, 1901. Lucy married Ivan F. Schaeffer and left the household. Lois married Raymond Hickok with whom she has two children and lived with her father, as does the youngest daughter Ruth. The sum of these events is captured by Frances' obituary and the 1910 census summary below:

Mrs. James Emery

Mrs. Frances Emery, wife of James Emery, died Sunday morning at 9:00 O'clock at her home, 74 Marion Avenue, after an illness of a number of weeks of suffering which were born with Christian fortitude. The cause of death was cancer. She was 38 years of age and leaves a husband and three daughters; Lucy, Lois and Ruth. Her mother is also living. Mrs. Emery was a member of the M. E. Church and the missionary societies and has been a consistent, earnest Christian, actively identifying with the work of the church. Funeral services Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock at her late home on Marion Avenue, conducted by the Rev. Dr. F. A. Gould of the M. E. Church.

The Mansfield Daily Shield; April 8, 1901; Page 3.

The mother referred to above is Julia Miller-Raven-Wallace who, by this time, had married William Wallace and was living in New Troy, Michigan. That Frances died of cancer is of interest to the Wirth family. Many members of the Wirth family have developed breast cancer due to a specific genetic mutation. More detail about her cause of death would be of interest.

The 1910 census (below) shows James Emery with daughter Lois who has married Raymond Hickok in about 1906 and has two children, Frances and Clinton. As her parents, Lois and Raymond apparently spent time in Pennsylvania since their daughter Frances was born there.

1910 Census of Richland Co., Madison Twp., Ohio
Emery, James, 51, born Canada, Foreman of a stove foundry, living in the 1st Ward of Mansfield, OH
Emery, Ruth E., 16, born OH
Hickok, Lois E., 24, born Penn., Mother born OH, Father born

Canada, Married 4 yrs.
Hickok, Raymond, 28, born OH, Brakeman on steam railroad
Hickok, Frances S., 3, born Penn.
Hickok, Clinton H., 1, born OH

In about 1915 Ruth E. Emery marries George Metcalf as indicated by the 1920 census below. Life was not always kind to the Emery/Hickok household however. Lois passed away on September 7 1917 leaving two children. Here again we have a young woman dying at a young age.

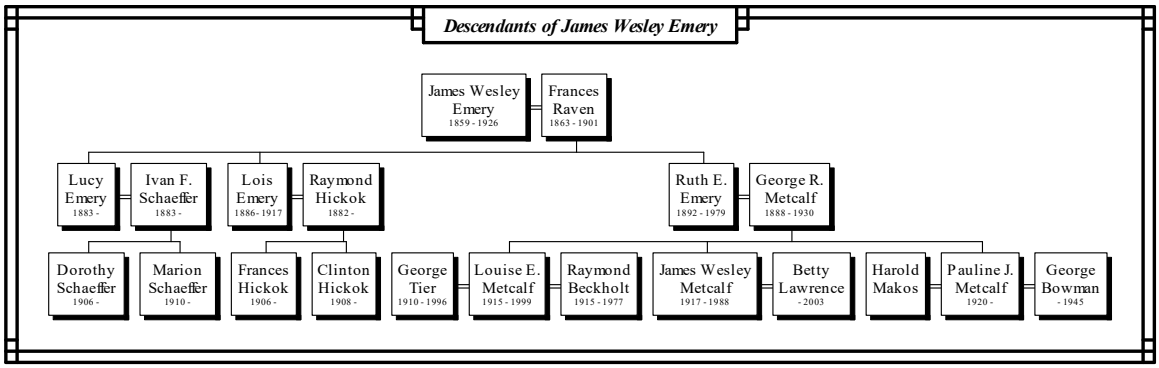
Within three years after the death of Lois, James moves to Akron, OH as indicated in the 1920 census below. He appears to be raising his grandchildren Frances and Clinton which raises the question of what happened to their father Raymond Hickok.

The 1920 Census of Summit Co., OH; City of Akron,
Emery, James; age 62; born Canada; father & mother born Canada
Forman of ?????
Hickok, Frances; age 13; born Penn; father born Ohio; mother born Penn.
Hickok, Clinton; age 11; born Ohio; father born Ohio; mother born Penn.

His length of stay in Akron is not clear. His obituary (shown below) suggests that he went from Mansfield directly to Norwalk, OH where he died on February 23, 1926. It neglects any mention of Akron although he was clearly there. Also, census data puts Lucy, Mrs. Ivan F. Schaeffer, in Indianapolis, IN in 1920 and Ruth, Mrs. George Metcalf, in Mount Vernon, OH in both 1920 and 1930. These people must have moved quite a bit. The obituary also suggests that James and Frances came to Mansfield in about 1896 which would have been a few years after the birth of their youngest daughter, Ruth.

JAMES EMERY WILL BE LAID TO
REST HERE ON THURSDAY
The body of James Emery, who died Tuesday in Norwalk, will be brought here for burial Thursday afternoon at 12:30 o'clock. He lived in Mansfield 30 years, leaving here seven years ago for Norwalk where he lived with two grandchildren, Frances and Clinton Hickok. He was 70 years old. Mr. Emery is survived by two daughter; Mrs. Ivan F. Schaeffer of Columbus and Mrs. George Metcalf of Fredericktown.
The Mansfield News; Feb. 24, 1926; page 14.

The descendants of James Emery and Frances Raven-Emery are shown in the following chart.


Descendants of James Wesley Emery
James Wesley Emery 1859 - 1926
Frances Raven 1863 - 1901
Lucy Emery 1883 -
Ivan F. Schaeffer 1883 -
Lois Emery 1886 - 1917
Raymond Hickok 1882 -
Ruth E. Emery 1892 - 1979
George R. Metcalf 1888 - 1930
Dorothy Schaeffer 1906 -
Marion Schaeffer 1910 -
Frances Hickok 1906 -
Clinton Hickok 1908 -
George Tier 1910 - 1996
Louise E. Metcalf 1915 - 1999
Raymond Beckholt 1915 - 1977
James Wesley Metcalf 1917 - 1988
Betty Lawrence - 2003
Harold Makos
Pauline J. Metcalf 1920 -
George Bowman - 1945

The middle name of James Emery was provided by Pauline Metcalf, his granddaughter, who indicated that she always heard him referred to as Wesley, not James. More detail of the Metcalf family tree is in the appendix.

I. LUCY EMERY AND IVAN F. SCHAEFFER

While living with her parents in Mansfield, OH, Lucy H. Emery met and ultimately married Ivan F. Schaeffer. At this writing, the time and place of their marriage has not been found. A photograph found in the Wirth home, shown below, may depict Lucy (or Lois) in the 1900 timeframe. The identity of the subject is uncertain because the notation on the back of the print, written in what appears to be Clarence Wirth's style, contradicts in part other information known about Frances and her family. The notation indicates that the subject is "the eldest daughter of Lois Emery" rather than the eldest daughter of Frances Raven-Emery. A photo of the daughter of Lois Emery at age 18 or so would have been taken in about 1925 and probably would show a different dress style.

The photo shows a well dressed woman of about 18. The overall data about the Emery family does not suggest much wealth, however. This photo could be the marriage photo of Lucy to Ivan Schaeffer, which occurred in early 1900s, making the dress style more consistent. Also, Ivan was believed to have been wealthy. He certainly moved up quickly to be a treasurer of "a major corporation" as shown in the 1920 census. He did not have a college education, however, only 4 years of high school training.

Their first child, Dorothy Schaeffer, was born in about 1906 according to census records shown below. This places their marriage in 1904 or so. Social Security death records indicate that Lucy was born on September 16, 1883 and Ivan on January 17, 1883. Another bit of quantitative data on Lucy and Ivan is contained in the 1920 census below:

1920 Census of Marion Co., IN, the city of Indianapolis.

Schaeffer, Ivan F.; Age 36; born OH; father born Penn; mother born OH; treasurer of major corporation.
Lucy H.; Age 36; born OH; father born Toronto, Canada; mother born OH.
Dorothy; Age 13; born OH
Marion; Age 9; born OH

Discussions with Lucy's niece, Pauline Makos (see Pauline records below), indicate that the Schaeffer's were quite well-to-do. Pauline indicates that at one time Ivan was an executive of Chrysler Corporation and lived in a very expensive home in Gross Point near Detroit, MI. The 1940 census indicates that they lived at 3636 Buckingham Ave. which is about 1 mile from the center of Gross Point, and in a home valued at $7300. This census also indicates that Ivan was an analyst at a major auto manufacturer and made $4000 per year. Pauline also indicates that after Ivan died, Lucy moved her two daughters from Michigan to California and lived near Riverside, CA. Lucy was apparently very attached to Pauline and always remembered Pauline's birthday and at Christmas. Pauline remembers her as a very classy lady.

Pauline's memory is not correct with respect to Ivan's movements, however. The California Death Index indicates that Ivan was born on January 17, 1883 in Ohio, died on January 5, 1947 in Los Angeles CA, and his mother's maiden name was Schwartz.

The Schaeffer family was probably well off in that Lucy is buried in a crypt as indicated by the obituary shown below:

Lucy Helen Schaeffer - 1883- 1978

Banning, CA: Private crypt-side funeral services for Lucy Schaeffer will be held at Rose Hills Memorial Park with Rev. Herbert Moise, Pastor of the Beaumont United Presbyterian church, officiating. Interment will follow in Rose Hills Memorial Park with Speers Family in charge.

A native of Ohio and a resident of Banning for six years, Mrs. Schaeffer died Sunday morning at the Beaumont Convalescent Hospital following a lengthy illness. She was 94. Mrs. Schaeffer was a homemaker all of her adult life and was a resident of California for 36 years.

She is survived by her daughters, Marian Graham and Dorothy Sullwold, both of Banning; her son-in-law Harold Sullwold of Banning; her sister Ruth Metcalf of Mt. Vernon, Ohio, and many nieces and nephews.

The Social Security death index shows a Lucy Schaeffer, SS# 374-10-2868, born on September 16, 1883, died in August 27, 1978 at ZIP 92220, Banning, CA.

This obituary of Lucy identifies her daughter's married names as Dorothy Sullwold and Marian Graham. Dorothy's husband Harold Sullwold has been found in the SS Death index as follows:

SS# 378-12-7547 issued in Michigan; born November 17, 1903 and died August, 1984 in Banning. While the given name of Marian's husband is not yet known, she is listed as follows: SS# 374-14-5367 issued in Michigan; born May 5, 1910, died June, 1985 in Banning, CA

These data suggest that at least Dorothy was married before she, her mother and Marian left Michigan since Harold Sullwold's SS# was issued in Michigan. Lucy's obituary suggests that she left Michigan in about 1942, probably with her husband Ivan who then died in 1947 at an age of almost 64 in Los Angeles.

Lucy and others of Francis Raven-Emery visited the Wirth family at least once as shown in the photo below.

The identities of the people in the above photo are as follows. Standing L-R: Ruth E. Emery and Otis C. Wirth. Seated L-R: Rosemond Smith-Wirth, Rose E. Wirth and Lucy H. Emery-Schaeffer. Foreground: Lois Wirth (dau. of Rosemond and Otis), and Dorothy Schaeffer, (dau. of Lucy).

The photograph above can be dated to about 1908/9 since Lois, the daughter of Rosemond and Otis Wirth, appears to be about 2 years old and was born on May 17, 1906. The identity of Ruth Emery, Lucy and Dorothy was certified by Pauline Metcalf-Makos while the identity of the others was provided by the author. The photograph was probably taken in Michigan during a visit of Lucy, Ruth and Dorothy.

II. LOIS AND RAYMOND HICKOK

As shown above in the 1900 census, Lois Emery was born in December, 1885. She was probably born in Pennsylvania according to the 1910 and 1920 census even though the 1900 census suggests Ohio. She married Raymond Hickok in about 1906 and with him had two children, Frances and Clinton. A photograph of either Lois or Lucy is included in the section concerning Lucy that may show Lois as a young woman.

The Emery women did not fare well in later life. Lois died on September 7, 1917. She left behind her two children. It is not clear if her husband was still with the family. Her obituary follows:

HICKOK
Mrs. Lois Emery Hickok, daughter of James Emery, died at the home of her father, 74 Marion Avenue, Friday afternoon at 2:15 o'clock. Funeral and burial strictly private from the family residence at 4 0'clock Saturday afternoon, the Rev. Polhamus officiating. Kindly omit flowers. The Daily Shield, Mansfield, OH, September 8, 1917

Her children lived on with their grandfather James Emery, following him to Akron and then to Norwalk where James died in 1926. Brief attempts to follow her children in their later life have not been successful. However, Clinton Hickok is a fairly rare name and a person of that name has been found in the SS death index as follows:

Clinton Hickok, SS# 578-14-8088 issued in Washington, DC.
Date of Birth: Oct. 10, 1908
Date of Death: Sept. 1982
Last known residence: Washington DC., Zip 20007

There is also a Frances Hickok in the SS death index as follows:

Frances Hickok, SS# 026-18-1194 issued in Mass.
Birth date: Aug. 10, 1906
Date of death: May, 1972

There is no guarantee that these SS numbers identify the descendants of Frances Raven, but are included here in order to mark a starting point for any future research.

III. RUTH AND GEORGE METCALF

In about 1915, Ruth Emery married George Metcalf. George was probably raised on a farm in Fredericktown, OH located a few miles south of Mansfield, OH. After Ruth and George were married, they apparently settled intermittently between the Metcalf farm, then owned by George's mother Fanny, and their home in Mt. Vernon City located about 30 miles south of

Mansfield[103]. They immediately started a family as shown in the 1920 and 1930 census summaries below:

The 1920 Census of Knox Co., Precinct A of Mt. Vernon City

Metcalf, George; Age 31; born OH; parents born OH; blacksmith in a carriage factory
Ruth; age 27; born OH; mother born OH; father born Canada
Louise; age 4 10/12; born OH
James; age 2; born OH
Fanny; mother; age 55; born OH; parents born OH

The 1930 census of Knox Co., OH; Second ward of Mt. Vernon City

Metcalf, George R.; 42; Age at first marriage 27; born OH; parents born OH; Chauffer/Taxi driver
Ruth E.; 37; age at first marriage 23; born OH; parents born OH
Louise E.; 15; born OH
James W.; 12; born OH
Pauline J.; 10; born OH
Fannie; 63; mother; born OH; parents born OH; cook at a restaurant

Their daughter Pauline, with whom the author has spoken, recalls being told that the Metcalf family moved from Mount Vernon to the farm shortly after she was born in 1920. She recalls that they then returned to Mount Vernon in about 1927. After George Metcalf died in 1930, Fanny Metcalf then sold the farm land and gave the home to George's sister Bessy. From then on, the family stayed in Mount Vernon.

In discussions with Pauline and Louise's daughter Beverly Tier-Williams, one gets the impression that George had some problems with alcohol and was involved with a tough crowd in Mount Vernon. This, and the availability of a job at the Foots Foundry in Fredericktown, was the principal reasons for their move to the farm in Fredericktown. There is also a hint that George's accidental death -he was run over by a train- was not an accident.

In summary, it appears that Ruth had a pretty hard life. She was left at a young age with three children and had to work very hard to sustain her home and educate her children. Social Security Death Index information indicates that Ruth was born on December 12, 1892 and died in January, 1979 in Mt. Vernon City. Her Social Security number was 280-10-8766.

Obituary: Mount Vernon (O.) News, Friday, January 26, 1979

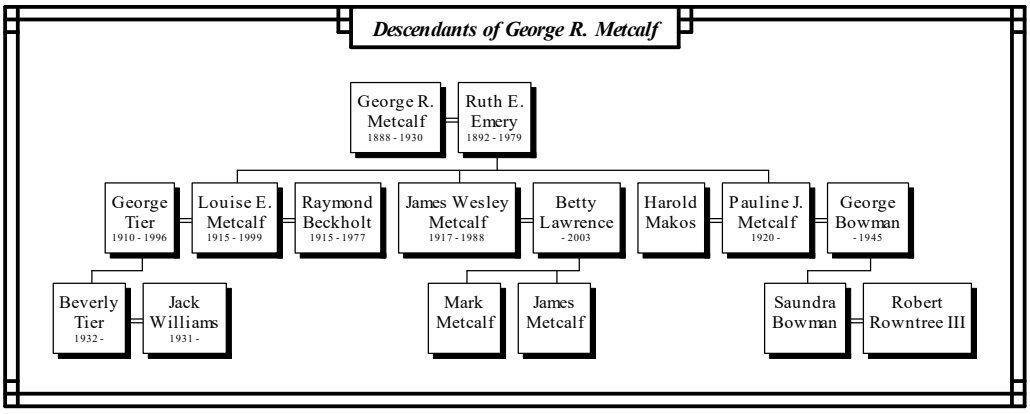
[103] Telephone conversations with Pauline Makos, daughter of Ruth Emery-Metcalf.

Ruth E. Metcalf, 86, a former resident of West Chestnut Street, died Thursday evening at Knox Community Hospital East following a long illness. Mrs. Metcalf lived in Mount Vernon for 65 years and was most recently a nursing home resident. She was a member of the First Baptist Church, the Women of the Moose, and the Friendship Club. She was a retired practical nurse at the Mount Vernon State Institute.

Survivors are daughters Mrs. Louise Beckholt and Mrs. Pauline Makos, both of Mount Vernon; son James W. of Davenport, Iowa; four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

There will be no funeral service and the body was cremated. North Funeral Home is making the arrangements. The family suggests contributions to the American Cancer Society.

The following chart shows the children and grandchildren of George and Ruth Metcalf.


Descendants of George R. Metcalf
George R. Metcalf 1888 - 1930
Ruth E. Emery 1892 - 1979
George Tier 1910 - 1996
Louise E. Metcalf 1915 - 1999
Raymond Beckholt 1915 - 1977
James Wesley Metcalf 1917 - 1988
Betty Lawrence - 2003
Harold Makos
Pauline J. Metcalf 1920 -
George Bowman - 1945
Beverly Tier 1932 -
Jack Williams 1931 -
Mark Metcalf
James Metcalf
Saundra Bowman
Robert Rowntree III

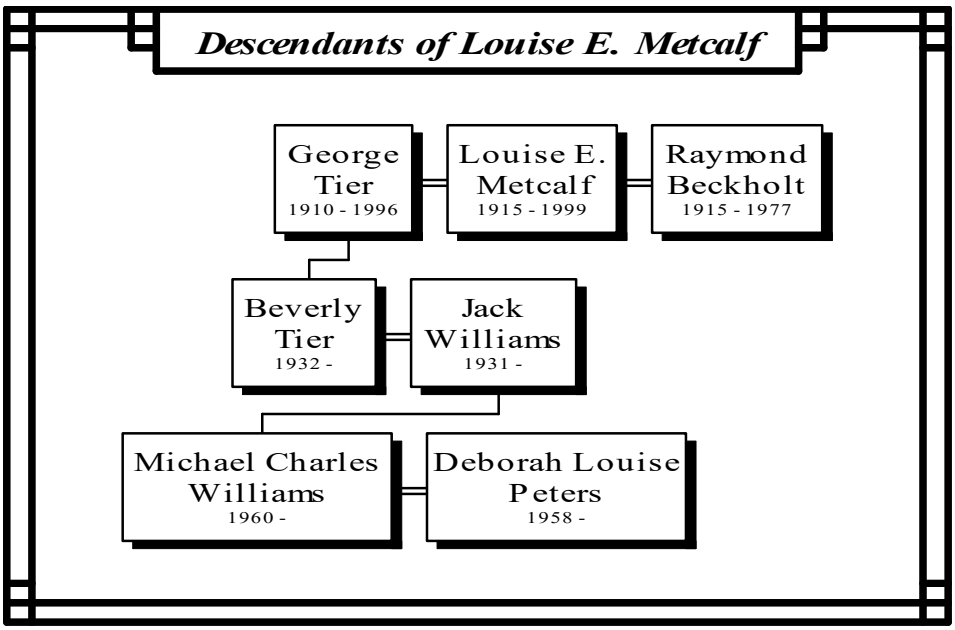
III-1 LOUISE E. METCALF AND GEORGE TIER

Louise E. Metcalf was born on March 28, 1915 to parents Ruth Emery-Metcalf and George R. Metcalf. While her birth record has not been found at this writing, it is believed that she was born near Fredericktown, OH since her parents were believed to have been living there during this time. She moved with her parents intermittently between Fredericktown and Mount Vernon, OH, during her formative years, and stayed on in Mt. Vernon with her mother after her father died in 1930.

Louise married George Tier on her 16th birthday, March On March 28, 1931. Shortly thereafter, Louise and George had a baby girl, Beverly Tier on March 6, 1932. The Tier family was quite large and there were many family get-togethers to celebrate birthdays, deaths, etc. until the death of George's mother. After the mother's death, the family grew apart.

Louise and George ultimately divorced in about 1941. Louise then married Raymond Beckholt in about 1947. He was born on August 6, 1915. Louise and Raymond lived the remainder of their lives in Mt. Vernon, OH.

Louise died on January 21, 1999 and is buried in Mount Vernon Memorial Gardens Cemetery. Her first husband, George Tier, died on December 29, 1996. Her second husband, Raymond Beckholt died in September, 1977. His SS# is 210-03-6032.

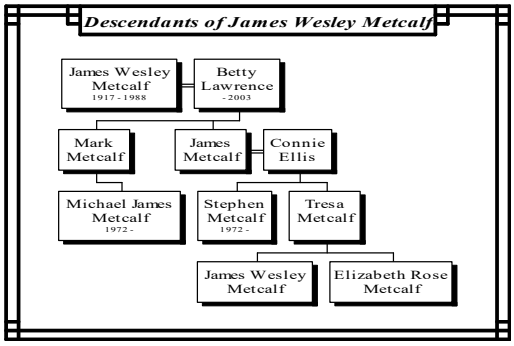


III-1-1 BEVERLY TIER AND JACK WILLIAMS

Beverly Tier was born on March 6, 1932 to parents Louise E. Metcalf and George Tier. Her latest known address and phone number are:

Mrs. Beverly Williams
201 Mansfield Rd.
Mount Vernon, OH 43050
740-393-2696

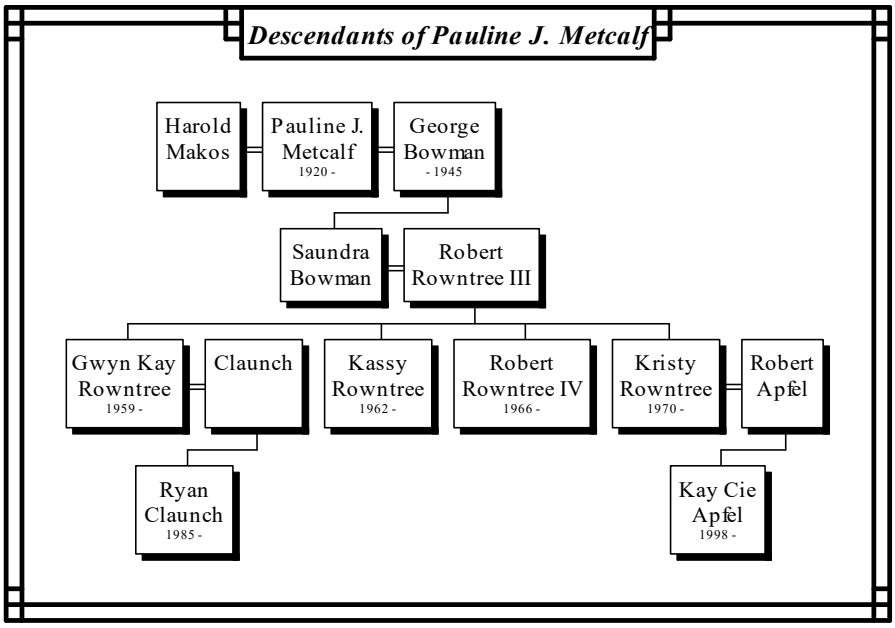
III-2 JAMES WESLEY METCALF



The index also lists James Metcalf (SS# 280-10-8981) as being born on December 25, 1917 and dying in West Palm Beach, FL, on August 20, 1988.

III-3 PAULINE METCALF-BOWMAN-MAKOS

Pauline Metcalf was raised most of her life in Mount Vernon, OH except for a few years on her grandmother's farm in Fredericktown. She went to high school in Mount Vernon. In about 1937, she married George Bowman and in 1939 they had their only child Saundra Bowman. Unfortunately, George died in 1945 of a heart attack and is buried in Mount Vernon. A few years later, Pauline met Harold Makos. The author spoke several times with Pauline who gave him the following descendant tree:



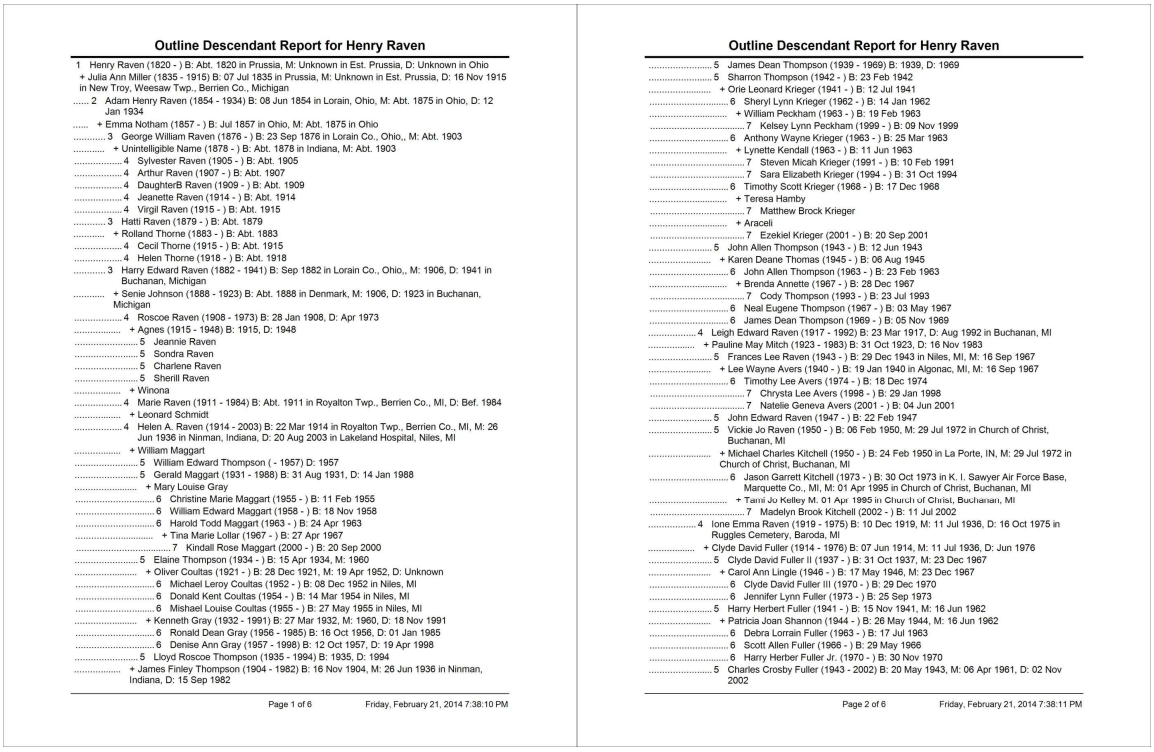
The Raven line in this chapter was followed in the hope of finding additional information about the ancestors of the authors. The authors' father, Clarence Wirth, frequently recalled that as a youth he traveled with his grandmother Rose Raven to somewhere in Ohio and stayed at a farmhouse. He had to sleep upstairs and the eerie whistle of a nearby train scared him. Also, Gene Watson, adopted son of Clarence's sister Lois, recalled traveling with his mother to somewhere in OH to visit a distant relative, circa 1950. Gene thought it might be near Akron, OH. It was hoped that this research might identify these locations.

It now appears, however, that Clarence's recollection probably relates to visits by Rose Raven and her two grandchildren (Clarence and Lois) to relatives of the Miller family[104]. These relatives were identified by photos retained by Lois Wirth-Watson in an album left at the Wirth home. Rose's mother, Julia, appears to have had a brother David Miller. He had several children, one of whom was Rena Clotz, nee Miller. Rena, in turn, had a daughter Edith Cadden, nee Clotz who lived in Lorain, OH and is pictured with Lois and Rose in the 1920 timeframe.

[104] See chapter THE MILLER LINE

The recollection of Gene Watson and a possible visit to Akron, OH is intriguing, however, since Clinton and Frances Hickok, grandchildren of Frances Raven-Emery lived in Akron in the 1920 timeframe with their grandfather James Emery. Neither Clinton nor Frances have been located in the 1940 census, however.

APPENDIX



Outline Descendant Report for Henry Raven

1 Henry Raven (1820 -) B: Abt. 1820 in Prussia, M: Unknown in Est. Prussia, D: Unknown in Ohio
+ Julia Ann Miller (1835 - 1915) B: 07 Jul 1835 in Prussia, M: Unknown in Est. Prussia, D: 16 Nov 1915 in New Troy, Weesaw Twp., Berrien Co., Michigan
..... 2 Adam Henry Raven (1854 - 1934) B: 08 Jun 1854 in Lorain, Ohio, M: Abt. 1875 in Ohio, D: 12 Jan 1934
..... + Emma Notham (1857 -) B: Jul 1857 in Ohio, M: Abt. 1875 in Ohio
..... 3 George William Raven (1876 -) B: 23 Sep 1876 in Lorain Co., Ohio,, M: Abt. 1903
..... + Unintelligible Name (1878 -) B: Abt. 1878 in Indiana, M: Abt. 1903
..... 4 Sylvester Raven (1905 -) B: Abt. 1905
..... 4 Arthur Raven (1907 -) B: Abt. 1907
..... 4 DaughterB Raven (1909 -) B: Abt. 1909
..... 4 Jeanette Raven (1914 -) B: Abt. 1914
..... 4 Virgil Raven (1915 -) B: Abt. 1915
..... 3 Hatti Raven (1879 -) B: Abt. 1879
..... + Rolland Thorne (1883 -) B: Abt. 1883
..... 4 Cecil Thorne (1915 -) B: Abt. 1915
..... 4 Helen Thorne (1918 -) B: Abt. 1918
..... 3 Harry Edward Raven (1882 - 1941) B: Sep 1882 in Lorain Co., Ohio,, M: 1906, D: 1941 in Buchanan, Michigan
..... + Senie Johnson (1888 - 1923) B: Abt. 1888 in Denmark, M: 1906, D: 1923 in Buchanan, Michigan
..... 4 Roscoe Raven (1908 - 1973) B: 28 Jan 1908, D: Apr 1973
..... + Agnes (1915 - 1948) B: 1915, D: 1948
..... 5 Jeannie Raven
..... 5 Sondra Raven
..... 5 Charlene Raven
..... 5 Sherill Raven
..... + Winona
..... 4 Marie Raven (1911 - 1984) B: Abt. 1911 in Royalton Twp., Berrien Co., MI, D: Bef. 1984
..... + Leonard Schmidt
..... 4 Helen A. Raven (1914 - 2003) B: 22 Mar 1914 in Royalton Twp., Berrien Co., MI, M: 26 Jun 1936 in Ninman, Indiana, D: 20 Aug 2003 in Lakeland Hospital, Niles, MI
..... + William Maggart
..... 5 William Edward Thompson (- 1957) D: 1957
..... 5 Gerald Maggart (1931 - 1988) B: 31 Aug 1931, D: 14 Jan 1988
..... + Mary Louise Gray
..... 6 Christine Marie Maggart (1955 -) B: 11 Feb 1955
..... 6 William Edward Maggart (1958 -) B: 18 Nov 1958
..... 6 Harold Todd Maggart (1963 -) B: 24 Apr 1963
..... + Tina Marie Lollar (1967 -) B: 27 Apr 1967
..... 7 Kindall Rose Maggart (2000 -) B: 20 Sep 2000
..... 5 Elaine Thompson (1934 -) B: 15 Apr 1934, M: 1960
..... + Oliver Coultas (1921 -) B: 28 Dec 1921, M: 19 Apr 1952, D: Unknown
..... 6 Michael Leroy Coultas (1952 -) B: 08 Dec 1952 in Niles, MI
..... 6 Donald Kent Coultas (1954 -) B: 14 Mar 1954 in Niles, MI
..... 6 Mishael Louise Coultas (1955 -) B: 27 May 1955 in Niles, MI
..... + Kenneth Gray (1932 - 1991) B: 27 Mar 1932, M: 1960, D: 18 Nov 1991
..... 6 Ronald Dean Gray (1956 - 1985) B: 16 Oct 1956, D: 01 Jan 1985
..... 6 Denise Ann Gray (1957 - 1998) B: 12 Oct 1957, D: 19 Apr 1998
..... 5 Lloyd Roscoe Thompson (1935 - 1994) B: 1935, D: 1994
..... + James Finley Thompson (1904 - 1982) B: 16 Nov 1904, M: 26 Jun 1936 in Ninman, Indiana, D: 15 Sep 1982

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Outline Descendant Report for Henry Raven

..... 5 James Dean Thompson (1939 - 1969) B: 1939, D: 1969
..... 5 Sharron Thompson (1942 -) B: 23 Feb 1942
..... + Orie Leonard Krieger (1941 -) B: 12 Jul 1941
..... 6 Sheryl Lynn Krieger (1962 -) B: 14 Jan 1962
..... + William Peckham (1963 -) B: 19 Feb 1963
..... 7 Kelsey Lynn Peckham (1999 -) B: 09 Nov 1999
..... 6 Anthony Wayne Krieger (1963 -) B: 25 Mar 1963
..... + Lynette Kendall (1963 -) B: 11 Jun 1963
..... 7 Steven Micah Krieger (1991 -) B: 10 Feb 1991
..... 7 Sara Elizabeth Krieger (1994 -) B: 31 Oct 1994
..... 6 Timothy Scott Krieger (1968 -) B: 17 Dec 1968
..... + Teresa Hamby
..... 7 Matthew Brock Krieger
..... + Aracell
..... 7 Ezekiel Krieger (2001 -) B: 20 Sep 2001
..... 5 John Allen Thompson (1943 -) B: 12 Jun 1943
..... + Karen Deane Thomas (1945 -) B: 06 Aug 1945
..... 6 John Allen Thompson (1963 -) B: 23 Feb 1963
..... + Brenda Annette (1967 -) B: 28 Dec 1967
..... 7 Cody Thompson (1993 -) B: 23 Jul 1993
..... 6 Neal Eugene Thompson (1967 -) B: 03 May 1967
..... 6 James Dean Thompson (1969 -) B: 05 Nov 1969
..... 4 Leigh Edward Raven (1917 - 1992) B: 23 Mar 1917, D: Aug 1992 in Buchanan, MI
..... + Pauline May Mitch (1923 - 1983) B: 31 Oct 1923, D: 16 Nov 1983
..... 5 Frances Lee Raven (1943 -) B: 29 Dec 1943 in Niles, MI, M: 16 Sep 1967
..... + Lee Wayne Avers (1940 -) B: 19 Jan 1940 in Algonac, MI, M: 16 Sep 1967
..... 6 Timothy Lee Avers (1974 -) B: 18 Dec 1974
..... 7 Chrysta Lee Avers (1998 -) B: 29 Jan 1998
..... 7 Natelie Geneva Avers (2001 -) B: 04 Jun 2001
..... 5 John Edward Raven (1947 -) B: 22 Feb 1947
..... 5 Vickie Jo Raven (1950 -) B: 06 Feb 1950, M: 29 Jul 1972 in Church of Christ, Buchanan, MI
..... + Michael Charles Kitchell (1950 -) B: 24 Feb 1950 in La Porte, IN, M: 29 Jul 1972 in Church of Christ, Buchanan, MI
..... 6 Jason Garrett Kitchell (1973 -) B: 30 Oct 1973 in K. I. Sawyer Air Force Base, Marquette Co., MI, M: 01 Apr 1995 in Church of Christ, Buchanan, MI
..... + Tami Jo Kelley M. 01 Apr 1995 in Church of Christ, Buchanan, MI
..... 7 Madelyn Brook Kitchell (2002 -) B: 11 Jul 2002
..... 4 Ione Emma Raven (1919 - 1975) B: 10 Dec 1919, M: 11 Jul 1936, D: 16 Oct 1975 in Ruggles Cemetery, Baroda, MI
..... + Clyde David Fuller (1914 - 1976) B: 07 Jun 1914, M: 11 Jul 1936, D: Jun 1976
..... 5 Clyde David Fuller II (1937 -) B: 31 Oct 1937, M: 23 Dec 1967
..... + Carol Ann Lingle (1946 -) B: 17 May 1946, M: 23 Dec 1967
..... 6 Clyde David Fuller III (1970 -) B: 29 Dec 1970
..... 6 Jennifer Lynn Fuller (1973 -) B: 25 Sep 1973
..... 5 Harry Herbert Fuller (1941 -) B: 15 Nov 1941, M: 16 Jun 1962
..... + Patricia Joan Shannon (1944 -) B: 26 May 1944, M: 16 Jun 1962
..... 6 Debra Lorrain Fuller (1963 -) B: 17 Jul 1963
..... 6 Scott Allen Fuller (1966 -) B: 29 May 1966
..... 6 Harry Herber Fuller Jr. (1970 -) B: 30 Nov 1970
..... 5 Charles Crosby Fuller (1943 - 2002) B: 20 May 1943, M: 06 Apr 1961, D: 02 Nov 2002

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Outline Descendant Report for Henry Raven

+ Vicki Joan Nelson (1945 - 1971) B: 14 Aug 1945, M: 06 Apr 1961, D: 26 Feb 1971
6 Charles Cosby Fuller Jr. (1962 -) B: 11 Feb 1962
6 Susan Ellen Fuller (1970 -) B: 29 Apr 1970
6 Darlene Lee Fuller (1964 -) B: 19 Jun 1964
+ Kristine Denise Fouser (1951 -) B: 29 Jul 1951, M: 27 May 1972
6 Melissa Marie Fuller (1979 -) B: 08 Feb 1979
5 Larry Lee Fuller (1945 -) B: 14 Apr 1945, M: 12 Oct 1963
+ Joanne Lea Nelson (1947 -) B: 16 Aug 1947, M: 12 Oct 1963
6 Lorry Lee Fuller (1967 -) B: 16 Nov 1967
6 Sherry Lynn Fuller (1970 -) B: 01 Nov 1970
5 Jack Edward Fuller (1948 -) B: 21 Oct 1948, M: 11 Mar 1967
+ Lynda Kay Cetzer (1949 -) B: 04 Aug 1949, M: 11 Mar 1967
6 Steve Edward Fuller (1967 -) B: 19 Aug 1967
6 Lisa Ann Fuller (1968 -) B: 22 Dec 1968
6 Shelley Marie Fuller (1972 -) B: 29 Sep 1972
4 Harry Briney (1923 - 1994) B: 11 Feb 1923, M: 19 Jan 1946, D: 16 Dec 1994 in Sodus, MI
+ Grace I. Coffey (1924 - 1996) B: 12 Apr 1924, M: 19 Jan 1946, D: 14 Aug 1996 in Sodus, MI
5 Patrick John Briney (1946 -) B: 10 Nov 1946
+ Lynn Rose
6 Patricia Ann Briney (1965 -) B: 10 Jun 1965
7 A. Amy Briney (1986 -) B: 02 Nov 1986
6 Larry Briney (1966 - 2002) B: 01 Nov 1966, D: 2002
6 Jeffrey Briney (1967 -) B: 27 Sep 1967
+ Carol Ann Christy (1944 -) B: 08 Aug 1944, M: May 1969
6 P. J. Henning (1970 -) B: 16 Jan 1970
6 Sherrill Jean Henning (1973 -) B: 16 Apr 1973
6 Heather Candice Henning (1975 -) B: 16 Aug 1975
5 Michael Jessie Briney (1952 -) B: 24 Aug 1952, M: 01 Dec 1972
+ Jennie Faye Fulbright (1956 -) B: 25 Apr 1956, M: 01 Dec 1972
6 Dawn Irene Briney (1973 -) B: 15 Jun 1973
+ Rod Curlie
7 Christa Curlie (1994 -) B: 27 Mar 1994
7 Walker Curlie (1998 -) B: 19 Aug 1998
6 Mitchel Briney (1980 -) B: 05 Mar 1980
5 Jeffrey Donald Briney (1957 -) B: 23 Aug 1957, M: Abt. 1980
+ Carol Barrie (1957 -) B: 02 Oct 1957, M: Abt. 1980
6 Paul C. Briney (1984 -) B: 01 Mar 1984
6 Michael J. Briney (1987 -) B: 19 Sep 1987
6 Sierra L. Briney (1992 -) B: Abt. 1992
+ Mary Williams M: 1935
3 Myrtle Raven (1883 -) B: Aug 1883
+ Kepplin
3 Mable M. Raven (1887 - 1958) B: Sep 1887 in New Troy, Michigan, M: 16 Dec 1903 in La Porte, IN, D: 24 Oct 1958 in La Porte, IN
+ Gary Moore (1884 -) B: Abt. 1884 in Indiana, M: 16 Dec 1903 in La Porte, IN
4 Ruth Moore (1905 -) B: Abt. 1905
+ Unknown
5 Geraldine Unknown
3 James C. Raven (1892 - 1981) B: Jan 1892 in New Troy, Michigan, M: 22 Oct 1910, D: 31 Jul 1981

Outline Descendant Report for Henry Raven

+ Floss A. Robbins (1894 - 1970) B: Abt. 1894, M: 22 Oct 1910, D: 03 Jul 1970
4 Jo Ann Raven
+ Richard Harper
4 Kenneth Raven (1911 -) B: Abt. 1911
4 Robert G. Raven (1916 - 1983) B: 19 Feb 1916 in La Porte, IN, M: 20 Nov 1940 in La Porte, IN, D: 13 Sep 1983 in Riverview Hospital, Noblesville, IN
+ Dolores Vallejo M: 20 Nov 1940 in La Porte, IN
5 Sheila London Raven
+ Jerry Fasbender
4 Richard M. Raven (1922 - 1988) B: 07 Apr 1922, D: 21 Feb 1988
+ Edna Weimer
2 Rose Elizabeth Raven (1856 - 1933) B: 26 Nov 1856 in Loraine, Ohio, M: 06 Jan 1874 in Loraine, Ohio, D: 05 Feb 1933 in Weesaw Twp., Berrien Co. Michigan
+ John Franklin Wirth (1853 - 1906) B: 26 Sep 1853 in Ohio, M: 06 Jan 1874 in Loraine, Ohio, D: 12 Apr 1906 in Weesaw Twp., Berrien Co. Michigan
3 Herbert Wirth (1878 - 1960) B: 06 Jan 1878 in Weesaw Twp., Berrien Co. Michigan, M: 06 Jan 1901 in Est. Galien, Michigan, D: 26 Sep 1960 in Twin Falls, Idaho
+ Clara Morley (1882 - 1945) B: 04 Nov 1882 in Est. Galien, Michigan, M: 06 Jan 1901 in Est. Galien, Michigan, D: 16 May 1945 in Twin Falls, Idaho
4 Hazel Wirth (1905 -) B: 24 May 1905 in Berrien Co., Michigan
+ Merrin E. Gardner
5 Clara Gardner
+ Vernon Smith
6 Terry Smith
6 Conney Smith
6 Allen Smith
6 Leanna Smith
5 Ruth Gardner
+ Denzel Martindale
6 Denzel Edward Martindale
6 Deanna Ruth Martindale
5 Wayne Gardner
+ Dorothy
6 Tina Gardner
6 Gary Gardner
4 Ruth Opal Wirth (1907 - 1978) B: 22 Oct 1907, D: 21 Dec 1978 in Helendale, California
+ Earl Bridgeford
5 Opel Bridgeford
5 Kenneth Bridgeford
5 Herbert E. Bridgeford
5 Harold Bridgeford
4 Fern Wirth (1909 -) B: 12 Nov 1909
+ Marvin Larson
+ Nora D. Spaulding M: 15 Dec 1953 in Twin Falls, Idaho
3 Otis Clarence Wirth (1883 - 1958) B: 06 Mar 1883 in New Troy, Michigan, D: 15 Feb 1958 in New Troy, Michigan
+ Rosemond Nancy Smith (1884 - 1947) B: 26 Sep 1884 in New Troy, Michigan, D: 04 Apr 1947 in New Troy, Michigan
4 Lois Wirth (1906 - 1962) B: 17 May 1906, D: 1962
+ Everett Watson (1904 - 1989) B: 1904, D: 1989
5 Gene Watson

Outline Descendant Report for Henry Raven

4 Leona Wirth (1911 - 1911) B: 20 Jun 1911 in New Troy, Michigan, D: 20 Jun 1911 in New Troy, Michigan
4 Clarence John Wirth (1912 - 1984) B: 04 Nov 1912 in New Troy, Michigan, M: 29 Jul 1933 in Buchanan, Michigan, D: 13 Nov 1984 in New Troy, Michigan
+ Dorothy O'Barton (1911 -) B: 10 Nov 1911 in Sawyer, Michigan, M: 29 Jul 1933 in Buchanan, Michigan
5 John Lyle Wirth (1935 -) B: 30 Aug 1935 in Benton Harbor, Michigan, M: 21 Dec 1958 in Sawyer, Michigan
+ LaVerne Ruth Schultz (1935 -) B: 09 Apr 1935 in Sawyer, Michigan, M: 21 Dec 1958 in Sawyer, Michigan
6 Lisa Ann Wirth (1963 -) B: 20 Sep 1963 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, M: 29 Jun 1985 in Sawyer, Michigan
+ Jeffery Gerald Dinges (1963 -) B: 23 Apr 1963 in New Troy, Michigan, M: 29 Jun 1985 in Sawyer, Michigan
7 Leanne Marie Dinges (1991 -) B: 03 Jan 1991 in Canton, Michigan
7 John Jeffery Dinges (1994 -) B: 08 Sep 1994
6 Joel Bryan Wirth (1969 -) B: 04 Oct 1969 in Livermore, California, M: 13 Jun 1999 in Albuquerque, New Mexico
+ Diane McDavid (1971 -) B: 04 Aug 1971 in Clark Air Force Base, Phillipines, M: 13 Jun 1999 in Albuquerque, New Mexico
5 Guy Barry Wirth (1940 -) B: 25 Dec 1940 in Niles, Michigan, M: 21 Sep 1959 in Ashville, North Carolina
+ Darlene Barker (1940 -) B: 15 May 1940 in Baroda, Michigan, M: 21 Sep 1959 in Ashville, North Carolina
6 Gregory B. Wirth (1960 -) B: 14 Mar 1960
6 Laura Ann Wirth (1962 -) B: 20 May 1962 in Lansing, Michigan
6 Lynne Ellen Wirth (1962 -) B: 20 May 1962 in Lansing, Michigan, M: 25 Apr 1987 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana
+ Markum Q. Palombo M: 25 Apr 1987 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana
7 Carol Lynne Palombo Palombo (1990 -) B: 23 Aug 1990
6 Dana Jane Wirth (1969 -) B: 10 Nov 1969 in Summit, New Jersey
+ Kenneth W. Santell (1965 -) B: 07 May 1965
7 Julia Marie Santell (1997 -) B: 14 May 1997
6 Jeffery John Wirth (1972 -) B: 14 Dec 1972
5 Carol Sue Wirth (1943 - 1972) B: 27 Dec 1943 in New Troy, Michigan, M: Oct 1965 in Sawyer, Michigan, D: 24 Dec 1972 in Benton Harbor, Michigan
+ David Lee Metz M: Oct 1965 in Sawyer, Michigan
5 Gary Ray Wirth (1953 -) B: 14 Oct 1953 in Benton Harbor, Michigan, M: 27 Jul 1992 in Benton Harbor, Michigan
+ Jill Ann McConnell (1955 -) B: 21 Sep 1955 in Lima, Ohio, M: 27 Jul 1992 in Benton Harbor, Michigan
6 Sarah Kate McConnell Wirth (1993 -) B: 03 Oct 1993
6 Jennifer Ann McConnell Wirth (1996 -) B: 27 Jun 1996
5 Rick Clarence Wirth (1955 - 1996) B: 17 Dec 1955 in Benton Harbor, Michigan, M: 23 Jun 1979 in Frankford, Michigan, D: 09 Aug 1996 in Charlotte, Michigan
+ Kathryn Ann Henry (1956 -) B: 02 Oct 1956, M: 23 Jun 1979 in Frankford, Michigan
6 Cheryl Wirth (1982 -) B: 24 Oct 1982
6 Evan Wirth (1984 -) B: 15 Oct 1984
4 Paul Wirth (1916 -) B: 17 Aug 1916
+ Evelyn Wire (1900 -) B: Abt. 1900, M: 31 May 1950
2 Frances Raven (1863 - 1901) B: 22 Aug 1863 in Lorain Co., Ohio,, D: 07 Apr 1901 in Mansfield, OH

Outline Descendant Report for Henry Raven

+ James Wesley Emery (1859 - 1926) B: Abt. 1859 in Toronto, Canada, D: 23 Feb 1926 in Norwalk, OH
3 Lucy Emery (1883 - 1978) B: 16 Sep 1883 in Ohio, D: 27 Aug 1978 in Beaumont Convalescent Hospital, Banning, CA
+ Ivan F. Schaeffer (1883 -) B: Abt. 1883
4 Dorothy Schaeffer (1906 -) B: Abt. 1906
+ Harold Sullwold (1903 - 1984) B: 17 Nov 1903, D: Aug 1984 in Banning, CA
4 Marion Schaeffer (1910 - 1985) B: 15 May 1910, D: Jun 1985 in Banning, CA
+ Graham
3 Lois Emery (1886 - 1917) B: Abt. 1886 in Penn., M: Abt. 1906, D: 07 Sep 1917 in Mansfield, OH
+ Raymond Hickok (1882 -) B: Abt. 1882, M: Abt. 1906
4 Frances Hickok (1906 -) B: 10 Aug 1906
4 Clinton Hickok (1908 -) B: 10 Oct 1908
3 Ruth E. Emery (1892 - 1979) B: 19 Dec 1892 in Mansfield, OH, M: Abt. 1915, D: 25 Jan 1979 in Mt. Vernon, OH
+ George R. Metcalf (1888 - 1930) B: Abt. 1888 in Ohio, M: Abt. 1915, D: Abt. 1930 in Mount Vernon, OH
4 Louise E. Metcalf (1915 - 1999) B: 28 Mar 1915, D: 21 Jan 1999 in Mount Vernon, OH
+ Raymond Beckholt (1915 - 1977) B: 06 Aug 1915, D: Sep 1977 in Mt. Vernon, OH
+ George Tier (1910 - 1996) B: Jul 1910, M: 28 Mar 1931, D: 25 Dec 1996
5 Beverly Tier (1932 -) B: 06 Mar 1932
+ Jack Williams (1931 -) B: 09 Nov 1931
6 Michael Charles Williams (1960 -) B: 30 Mar 1960
+ Deborah Louise Peters (1958 -) B: 21 Dec 1958
7 Alisha Louise Williams (1988 -) B: 16 Jan 1988
4 James Wesley Metcalf (1917 - 1988) B: 25 Dec 1917, D: 20 Aug 1988 in West Palm Beach, Fl
+ Betty Lawrence (- 2003) D: May 2003 in West Palm Beach, Fl
5 Mark Metcalf
6 Michael James Metcalf (1972 -) B: 1972
5 James Metcalf
+ Connie Ellis
6 Stephen Metcalf (1972 -) B: 1972
6 Tresa Metcalf
7 James Wesley Metcalf
7 Elizabeth Rose Metcalf
4 Pauline J. Metcalf (1920 -) B: 19 Jun 1920
+ Harold Makos
+ George Bowman (- 1945) D: 1945
5 Saundra Bowman
+ Robert Rowntree III
6 Gwyn Kay Rowntree (1959 -) B: 03 Sep 1959 in Abilene, TX
+ Claunch
7 Ryan Claunch (1985 -) B: 1985
6 Kassy Rowntree (1962 -) B: 05 May 1962 in Galveston, TX
6 Robert Rowntree IV (1966 -) B: 09 Apr 1966 in Odessa, TX
6 Kristy Rowntree (1970 -) B: 14 Jan 1970 in Odessa, TX
+ Robert Apfel B: Philadelphia, Penn.
7 Kay Cie Apfel (1998 -) B: 1998 in Waco, TX

Orlando Nehrlich Smith | 1856-1930

May 21, 1924

Orlando N. Smith, the great grandfather of the authors, was born on June 16, 1856[105] in Sheboygan, Wisconsin[106]. As will be discussed later, the surname of his birth parents is still in question but it is most likely Nehrlich. It appears that Orlando was adopted or taken in by Samuel and Nancy Smith sometime before 1860 since he appears as A. L. Smith in the 1860 census[107] of Weesaw Township, Berrien County, MI living in or near the town of New Troy with Samuel and Nancy. In letters to his daughter Rosemond N. Smith-Wirth, he describes[108] New

[105]See attached death certificate of Alameda Co., CA #946.
[106] See census entries, marriage record, etc. in the Appendix.
[107] See attached copies of census from 1860 through 1920.
[108] See copies of letters from Orlando to Rosemond in the Appendix.

Troy in the 1860 time frame as being situated in thick and heavy timber; oak, whitewood, pine, elm, beach and other timber. He also indicates that "roads were then used where it was easiest to make them, regardless of where they were surveyed or whether section or quarter lined. Heavy swamps were where there are fine farms now." One of the letters contains hand-written maps which show school locations, roads, teachers, etc. The maps also show that he lived on the east side of the main street of New Troy and the location of his blacksmith shop before he moved to Kirktown[109] in 1870. Kirktown was a small collection of homes located on the road between New Troy and Sawyer, MI and is the location of the farm of Samuel and Nancy Smith shown on the plat map of 1892.

Orlando left a rather complete photographic record of his life. He annotated most of the photographs, indicating that he wanted to record that he passed through this life. On the back of the tin-type shown here are the words "O. N. Smith, May 30th, 1870 taken in St. Joseph Mich." Orlando would have been 14 yrs. old at the time.

By 1880, Orlando has grown into a young man of 23. The census entry of that year[110] indicates that he has become a blacksmith as does his later marriage record, and shows him not as a child of Samuel (James??) and Nancy Smith, but as a individual called "Verlich, Alonzo" living in the Smith household. This is the first indication that Orlando is not a biological child of the Smith's but is either adopted or was taken in by the Smith family. Note that the census records also show other people living with the Smith family from time to time. There are several confusing elements of the 1880 census entry, namely the given name of Samuel is shown as "James", and Orlando is called Alonzo, the name of the biological child of Samuel and Nancy shown in this and other census entries.

On September 20, 1882, Orlando, age 26, married Rosa Adell Weston, age 23, in Bridgman, MI[111]. The wedding is performed by P. B. Passy and witnessed by F. F. Weston, Rosa's father, and Samuel Smith, Orlando's "father." In the marriage record, Orlando again indicates that his profession is blacksmith. Rose (aka Rosa), who went mostly by the name Della, indicates that

[109] The spelling of this town's name is uncertain. Orlando says it is named after Dexter Curtis and is called Curt Town. However, today's maps refer to Kirktown Creek passing through the area.
[110] See 1880 census record in the Appendix.
[111] See attached marriage record dated September 22, 1882 of Berrien Co., MI.

she was born in Reynales Basin, New York from which the Weston family emigrated earlier. There is an extensive family history of the Weston family dating back to 1644 in Salem, Mass. and before that in England[112].

Orlando and Della's first child and the authors' grandmother, Rosemond Nancy Smith, was born on September 26, 1884[113] in Weesaw Township, Berrien Co. MI. In about 1886, Orlando moved his family to the Dakota Territory where he purchased land. On the back of the photograph below he indicates that it is described as the "NE ¼ of section 6, Township 119 North and Range 54 West on the county line 27 miles N West of Watertown, Dakota Territory." Records from South Dakota confirm his ownership.

The Smiths, pictured at right in 1886, left the Dakota Territory in about 1887 after selling their land to Edwin Conn on May 19, 1887 according to land records of S. Dakota. The Native American population in the area was somewhat restless during this time and Orlando may have felt that the risks were just too large to remain there and homestead this property. It is also likely that homesteading turned out to be a very difficult way of life.

After returning to Michigan, their second child, Grace, was born on January 17, 1888. During this period, Della apparently contacted pneumonia. She does not appear to be well in the next photographs.

The photo on the next page shows their entire family: Orlando, Rosemond, and Della holding Grace. It was probably taken in the spring of 1889 based upon the apparent age of Grace and the date written on the back of one of the photos. Della was clearly not well. The dark rings around her eyes could indicate makeup but are more likely caused by the effects of pneumonia that would soon take her life.

[112] See section Weston Line
[113] See birth record of Rosemond Nancy Smith.

The photo on the right above bears the words "Rosa Adell, my first wife – negative made in July, 1889, O. N. Smith." Note the initials on the bottom of the right hand photo: "A. R. & O. N. Smith." They suggest that in July, 1889, Orlando and his adoptive brother Alonzo Smith were in the photography business together. The location of their enterprise is not totally clear, but it is thought to have been in Three Oaks, MI. Later, Orlando would be in business alone and then with someone named Clark in Niles, MI. Only a few months after these photographs were taken, Della died in Three Oaks, MI on November 9, 1889 of "consumption."[114] She is buried in New Troy Cemetery.

The next photograph attributed to Orlando and Alonzo is shown to the right. On the bar at the bottom of the photograph (not shown), is the words "Three Oaks" and a pencil inscription reading "Rosemond and Grace" written faintly in the bottom of the image not shown in the copy shown here. There is also a poem of some sort written on the back in draft form with many changes and cross-outs written in pencil. Unfortunately, it is very hard to read and is not reproduced here.

Orlando was located next in Niles, MI as a photographer. The 1892 edition of the Niles City Directory[115] shows Orlando living in Niles at "res e s 3d 4 n of Main." This appears to be some sort of abbreviated location such as living on 3rd street, 4 houses north of Main. His photography studio is also listed as "Smith & Clark (Orlando N. Smith, Andrew F. Clark), Photographers, 315 Main." How long Orlando stayed in the photography business is unclear, but several photos of Rosemond taken by him in the 1895 timeframe exist. The photo at the left was taken in 1895 and shows Rosemond (Left) and her younger sister Grace Smith.

Later in the 1890s, Orlando apparently tires of Niles. Family lore, census[116] and Chicago City Directory information[117] indicate that he moved to Chicago, became a solicitor and married his second wife, Anna. Annotation on

[114] See attached death record.
[115] See attached copy of 1892 Niles City Directory, page 325
[116] See 1900 Census of Cook Co., Chicago Twp., IL, attached.
[117] See Chicago City Directory data from 1898 and 1902, attached

a photograph shown below indicates that she was born in Indiana on May 22, 1855. While his younger daughter, Grace, remained with her father and new wife in Chicago in 1900, his eldest daughter Rosemond did not care for Chicago and/or his new wife and returned to Michigan to live with her grandparents and perhaps her father's "brother," Alonzo. Rosemond is shown in the 1900 census[118] living with Samuel and Nancy Smith at their Kirktown[119] farm near New Troy, MI. Family lore indicates that she also lived with Alonzo and was friendly with one of his children, Winnie, who later married Thomas Carpenter. Grace must have moved to the New Troy area also sometime after 1900 since she ultimately married Henry Lee of Three Oaks, MI, on July 28, 1910.

The length of Orlando's stay in Chicago is uncertain. One of his letters to Rosemond[120] from Oakland CA indicated that he purchase land near Lodi, California in 1909. His death record indicates that he may have come as early as 1908 but the Oakland City Directory[121] first shows Orlando in 1911 as an insurance agent living at 574 Sycamore. Then, in 1913 he is shown as an insurance agent at 4350 Ruby (later known as Stelle). The 1920 census[122] shows Orlando (age 64) with wife Anna L (63) and indicates Orlando was born in Wisconsin, Anna in Indiana and that Orlando's parents were both from Germany and spoke German. This is consistent with the 1900 census entry from Chicago.

The photograph on the right below shows Orlando and his second wife Anna L. Smith in January, 1907. The photograph was addressed on the back to "Rosemond." There are no labels on it which would give the name or address of the photographer.

[118] See 1900 Weesaw Township, Berrien Co., MI Census attached.
[119] Kirktown was a small group of homes located near the intersection of Sawyer and Baldwin Rds.
[120] See letter dated Nov. 12, 1923 in Appendix
[121] See attached entries of Oakland City Directory furnished by George Anderson of Pleasanton, CA.
[122] See 1920 census of Alemeda Co., CA attached

The photo above is inscribed with
"O. N. Smith and Anna L. Smith,
my 2nd wife in 1912, Resp. O. N. Smith."

Below on the left is a set of two photographs of Orlando and Anna in 1912. The setting seems to be in the Oakland, CA hills around their home. The address of the home will be shown later. Only one of the photos contains the above date, but they are linked by the clothes and the shape of the prints.

The next significant photograph shows Orlando and Anna with their bees on the right above. It appears that Orlando tried many different vocations to survive: blacksmithing, homesteading, photography, peddler, solicitor, insurance, chickens, bees, etc. He and Anna are shown here with their bees in 1916. The inscription on this photo states: Taken March 25th, 1916. O. N. Smith born Sheboygan Wis. June 16th, 1856. Anna Smith Born May 22nd, 1855. We are both 60 in 1916." Other photographs showing Anna and Orlando in the 1916 – 1919 timeframe are shown in the Appendix in album format. The appearance of the Oakland hills in the background of this photo is much different that it is now. Now, it is houses as far as the eye can see.

The Oakland City Directory entries as well as the tone of one of Orlando's letters to Rosemond[123] suggest that his wife Anna dies sometime in the early 1920s, perhaps in late 1923 or early 1924 as suggested by the notations on the photo discussed below.

The following photograph is the last one that has been found at the time of this writing. Two copies were found in folders made by Belle Oudry studio, 1121 Washington Street, Oakland, CA. One copy was addressed to his daughter Rosemond and is inscribed as follows: "To my precious daughter Rosemond N. Wirth with sincere love and best wishes from your father Orlando Nehrlich Smith, born in Sheboygan, Wis. June 16, 1856. Negative made May 21, 1924 on Grandma's birthday. She would have been 69 years. Sincerely O. N. Smith." The second copy was addressed to Lois Wirth and is inscribed: "To Lois Mae Wirth from Grandpa Smith, June 2nd, 1924. Born in Sheboygan Wis. June 16, 1856. Negative made May 21, 1924." In letters written in this timeframe to Rosemond, Orlando was clearly feeling down and concerned about his longevity. He may have made this last formal photograph with that in mind.

[123] See letter of Dec. 19, 1923 attached.

Orlando then appears to marry Nora B. She appears in the 1925 city directory living at his home at 4350 Steele (formerly called Ruby), the location of which is shown on the street maps of Oakland, CA in the Appendix. They then moved nearby to another residence at 3906 Midvale (located about a mile north of the Steele home) where Orlando died.

It appears that Orlando was also a bit of poet or at least passed along a poem he enjoyed. A very tattered clipping of the following poem was retained by Rosemond. It apparently was published in a newspaper called the "Enterprise" located in the New Troy – Bridgman area in approximately 1925. It reads as follows:

"HA HA THE EDITOR STILL HAS A CHANCE

Dear Editor; Your paper, "The Enterprise" is a dandy and I am sending you a couple of stanzas for your encouragement and comfort. You may put this in your issue for my friends and relatives in Bridgman and New Troy to read and smile over if you wish. My little granddaughter Lois Wirth is one of the teachers in your public school.

The Editor's Reward

The editor died and went to heaven
But stood outside the gate
Because he hadn't the nerve to knock
And thought that he would wait
Till some other mortals came along
And if they entered the pearly gate
He thought he might slip through.
He watched the vast procession pass
Through the portals wide
While Peter told some they were up too high
And others he took inside.

The editor, weary of waiting so long,
Finally got in line
To see if Peter would accept him then
Or would with thanks decline.
He heard the sweet voiced Angels sing.
His eyes filled to the brim.
He shivered and shook in agony
Knowing his chances were slim.
"Ah ha!" Said Peter, "an editior here?"
(He laughed with pure delight)
"Why certainly you may come in
For all you did was write."

O. N. Smith, Oakland, Calif.

Orlando's death certificate[124] indicates that he died on April 6, 1930 at the age of 73 years, 9 months and 21 days... The cause of death is given as chronic myocarditis and arteriosclerosis. He is buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Garden of Peace Section, Row 6, and Space 43 in an unmarked grave. A map of his grave location in that cemetery was provided by Evergreen and is reproduced in the Appendix. His wife Nora Smith, who provided the death certificate information, indicates that he had lived in California for 22 years making his arrival 1908. Further, she indicates that Orlando's father's surname was NERLICH, not Smith. Nora could be quite a bit younger than Orlando since, according

[124] See attached death certificate.

to the city directory, she lives at their Midvale home until about 1961 and is not listed thereafter.

Another bit of evidence that Orlando's birth surname was Nehrlich was found among his daughter Rosemond's papers. In addition to the letters referenced above, she apparently received from Orlando a copy of a bill of sale for the Accident Gravel and Quartz mine executed in 1875 between a Frederick Nehrlich and Adolf Grantz[125]. The deed was recorded on June 11, 1875 and that record has been found in the archives in Sacramento, CA (Book S of Deeds on pages 253 and 254). Frederick paid Grantz $108.10 for this mine, apparently to settle a partnership that existed previously between Grantz and Nehrlich. Attempts to locate this mine have failed: The California historical group that records such things has no record of it.

There were at least two Nehrlich families in Sheboygan, Orlando's birthplace, in the 1850-1860 timeframe. An extensive history of a Christian Heinrich Nehrlich[126] family exists and is retained by Richard Nehrlich, W3979 Primrose Lane, Elkhart Lake WI 53020, Phone 920-565-3694. Unfortunately, neither Orlando nor Frederick Nehrlich is mentioned in this study. In addition, Frederick has not been found positively in any federal census of the appropriate years. However, the 1855 special census of Wisconsin, City of Sheboygan shows a Fred Nehrlich family consisting of 2 males and 4 females with no other detail about ages, etc. In addition, a search of passenger lists shows a Friedrich Nehrlich, age 36, arriving in Baltimore on May 8, 1851 on the ship Anna, a bark. He came from Saxony by way of Bremen and was bound for Buffalo (National Archives M255, microfilm roll 8, list # 32). Buffalo would have been a convenient stopping off place en route down the Great Lakes to Wisconsin.

The above data shows that there was a Fred or Frederick Nehrlich in Wisconsin in the right timeframe to be Orlando's father. The deed to the gravel and quartz mine having made its way to Rosemond's records further ties Frederick Nehrlich to Orlando: How else would Rosemond have it? We still do not know why Orlando would have been adopted by the Smith family, however, unless Orlando's mother died after he was born. An Emil Nehrlich, is found in the 1880 census of San Francisco, CA who was born in WI in about 1855 who might be part of Fredrich's family, thereby showing a tie between the Frederick Nehrlich family of Wisconsin and California. There is an Emil of the Christian Nehrlich family who was born in 1861 but he was also recorded in the 1880 census in Wisconsin and could not have been in CA at the same time.

Another curious finding in the 1870 census of Weesaw Township, Berrien Co., Michigan is the presence of an Eleanor Smith, daughter of Peter and Celestia Smith, who (like Orlando) was born in Wisconsin. Peter Smith appears to be a brother of Samuel in that their parents seem to be born in same places. Eleanor marries Hiram Boyce and, in the 1900 census of Jackson, MI, indicates that she was born in September, 1856. This date is very close to the birth date of Orlando (June, 1856). If these dates are correct, Orlando and Eleanor could not be siblings; however, if one is wrong by a month or two, then perhaps they are twins and their mother died in their birth, thereby causing both to be given up for adoption to the Smith brothers. This is, of course, simply speculation.

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[125] See attached copy of documents for the mine.

[126] Christian Nehrlich and family arrived in New York on the ship Mimi from Bremen on June 22, 1855.

While there remains uncertainty about Orlando's birth surname, he left a reasonably complete record of his life. He appears to have been a bit of a vagabond, entrepreneur, or maybe a con artist. His occupation ranged from blacksmith, to homesteader, to photographer, to solicitor, to insurance salesman. He or his second wife must not have been all that pleasant to live with since both of his daughters chose to return to the New Troy, MI area and live with their grandparents as they approached maturity. Family lore also suggests that Rosemond's husband Otis and his mother had little regard for Orlando. Still, Orlando thought enough of Rosemond to keep in touch by letter and photograph, and, as expressed in one of them, hoped to leave her some inheritance in the event of his death. In his letters to Rosemond, he did not mention his other daughter Grace, however. He must have known about her condition but chose to ignore it.

APPENDIX

CENSUS ENTRIES FOR
ORLANDO N. SMITH

1860 Census of Michigan, Berrien Co., Weesaw Twp., House/family 914/918
S Smith, Age 34, Male, White, Laborer, Born New Jersey
N. Smith, Age 35, Female, White, Born New York
A. L. Smith, Age 4, Male, Born Michigan
Elizabeth Porter, Age 16, Female, Born Ohio

1870 Census of Michigan, Berrien Co., Weesaw Twp., House/family 167-8
Smith, Samuel, Age 46, Male, White, Farmer, Born New Jersey
Smith, Nancy, Age 47, Female, White Keeps House, Born New York
Smith, Orlando Age 14, Male, White, Born Michigan
Smith, Alonzo, Age 3, Male, White, Born Michigan
Nichols, Alice, Age 15, Female, White, Born Michigan
Allen, Anne B., Age 16, Female, White, Born Michigan

1880 Census of Michigan, Berrien Co., Weesaw Twp. House/Family 153
Smith, **James**, White, Male, Age 53, Farmer, Born New Jersey, Father born New Jersey, Mother born New Jersey
Smith, Nancy, White, Female, Age 53, Wife, Keeping house, Born New York, Father born New York, Mother born New York
Smith, Alonzo, White, Male, Age 12, Son, Born Michigan, Father born New Jersey, Mother born New York.
Vehrlich, Alonzo, White, Male, Age 23, Blacksmith, Born Wisconsin, Father Born Germany, Mother born Germany.

1900 Census of Illinois, Cook Co., Chicago Twp. Vol. 74, ED 1128, Sheet 12, line 40
Ward 34, LDS Soundex Film #1243371 and

Smith, O. N., White, Born June 1855, Age 44, Married, Married 16 yrs
Born Wisconsin, Father born Ohio, Mother born Ohio,
Smith, Anna, Wife, Born May 1856, Age 44, Married, Mother of one child
One child still living, Born Indiana, Father born Penn., Mother born Penn.,
Smith, Grace, Daughter, Born Jan. 1887, Age 13, Born Michigan, Father born Wisconsin, Mother born Wisconsin.

1920 Census of California, Alameda Co., City of Oakland, Precinct 236
Street (illegible), House No. 4350, Dwelling 177, Family 178
Smith, Orlando N. Head, Owns house, Mortgage Free, Male, White, Age 63
Married, Reads English, Writes English, Born Wisconsin, Father born Germany, Father speaks German, Mother born Germany, Mother Speaks German, Speaks English, Occupation Agent, Place of Business Insurance Co., Works for wages.
Smith, Anna S. Wife, Female, White, Age 64, Married, Reads English
Writes English, Born Indiana, Father born USA, Father speaks English, Mother born Indiana, Mother speaks English, Speaks English, Occupation Laborer, Place of business College, Works for wages.

1900 Census of Michigan, Berrien Co., Weesaw Twp.
Smith, Samuel, Born September 1826, Age 73, Born New Jersey,
Mother & Father born New Jersey, Farmer, Owns home, no mortgage, Speaks & reads English
Smith, Nancy, Born September 1825, Age 74, Married 52 yrs, Born in New York, Father & Mother Born New York, Gave birth to one child still living, Speaks & reads English
Smith, Warren, Nephew, Born March 1861, Age 39, Single, Born in Michigan, Father & Mother born Ohio.
Smith, Rosemond, Grand Daughter, Born September 1882, Age 17, Born in Michigan, Father born Wisconsin, Mother born New York, At School

MARRIAGE RECORD OF ORLANDO N. SMITH & ROSE ADELL WESTON

Record # 1780, dated September 23, 1883
Marriage Date: September 20, 1882
Orlando N. Smith, White, Resident of New Troy Mich., Age 26, Born Sheboygan Wisconsin, Occupation Blacksmith,
Rosa A. Weston, White, Resident of Bridgman, Mich., Age 23, Born Reynales Basin, New York
Official: P. B. Passy, Clergyman

Witnesses: F. F. Weston
Samuel R. Smith
Source: State of Michigan, Co. of Berrien Record of Marriages, Page 88

DEATH CERTIFICATION FOR
ROSA ADELL WESTON-SMITH

Name: Rosa A. Smith;
Sex and Ethnicity: Female, White
Date of Death: November 9, 1889
Age: 30 yrs, 10 months
Place of Death: Three Oaks, MI
Disease or cause of death: Consumption
Birthplace: New York
Occupation: Housekeeper
Parents Names and Residence:
Franklin Weston, New York
Rosamond Weston, New York
Information Source: Berrien Co., Three Oaks Twp. Return of Deaths

NILES CITY DIRECTORY RECORDS

1892 Niles City Directory, Page 325
Smith, Orlando N (Smith & Clark), res e s 3d 4 n of Main
Smith & Clark (Orlando N. Smith, Andrew F. Clark), Photographers
315 Main.

CHICAGO CITY DIRECTORY RECORDS

1898 Chicago City Directory, LDS film # 1376699
Smith, O.N. Peddler, 439 W 112th Street

1900 Chicago City Directory, LDS film #1376705
Smith, Orlando; Peddler 439 W 112th

1902 Chicago City Directory, LDS film #1759633
Smith, O.N. Solicitor, 11052 Michigan Ave, House @ 439 112th Street

Note: There were no entries for Nehrlich or Nerlich in these directories.

OAKLAND CITY DIRECTORY RECORDS

1908, 1909, 1910; No entry
1911 O. N. Smith, insurance agent, resident 574 Sycamore
1912 No entry
1913 O. N. Smith, insurance agent, residence 4350 Ruby (former name for Steele)
1914 Same as 1913
1916 Same as 1913
1922 Same as 1913
1923 Same as 1913
1925 O. N. Smith (Nora B.) salesman Home @ 4350 Steele
1926 O. N. Smith, (Nora B.) insurance, Home @ 4350 Steele
1927 Same as 1926
1928 O. N. Smith (Nora B.) salesman, Home @ 3906 Midvale
1930 Same as 1928
1933 Nora B. Smith (Widow of O.N.), Home @ 3906 Midvale
1934 - 1961 Same as 1933 (Spot check only)
1962 on No entry

ACCIDENT GRAVEL AND QUARTZ MINE[127]

Received SF July 14, 1875 of Frederick Nehrlich the sum of $108.10 in full settlement for all claims against said Nehrlich in connection with and growing out of a former partnership in the Accident Gravel and Quartz mine situated in Calaccio, County of El Dorado, State of California.

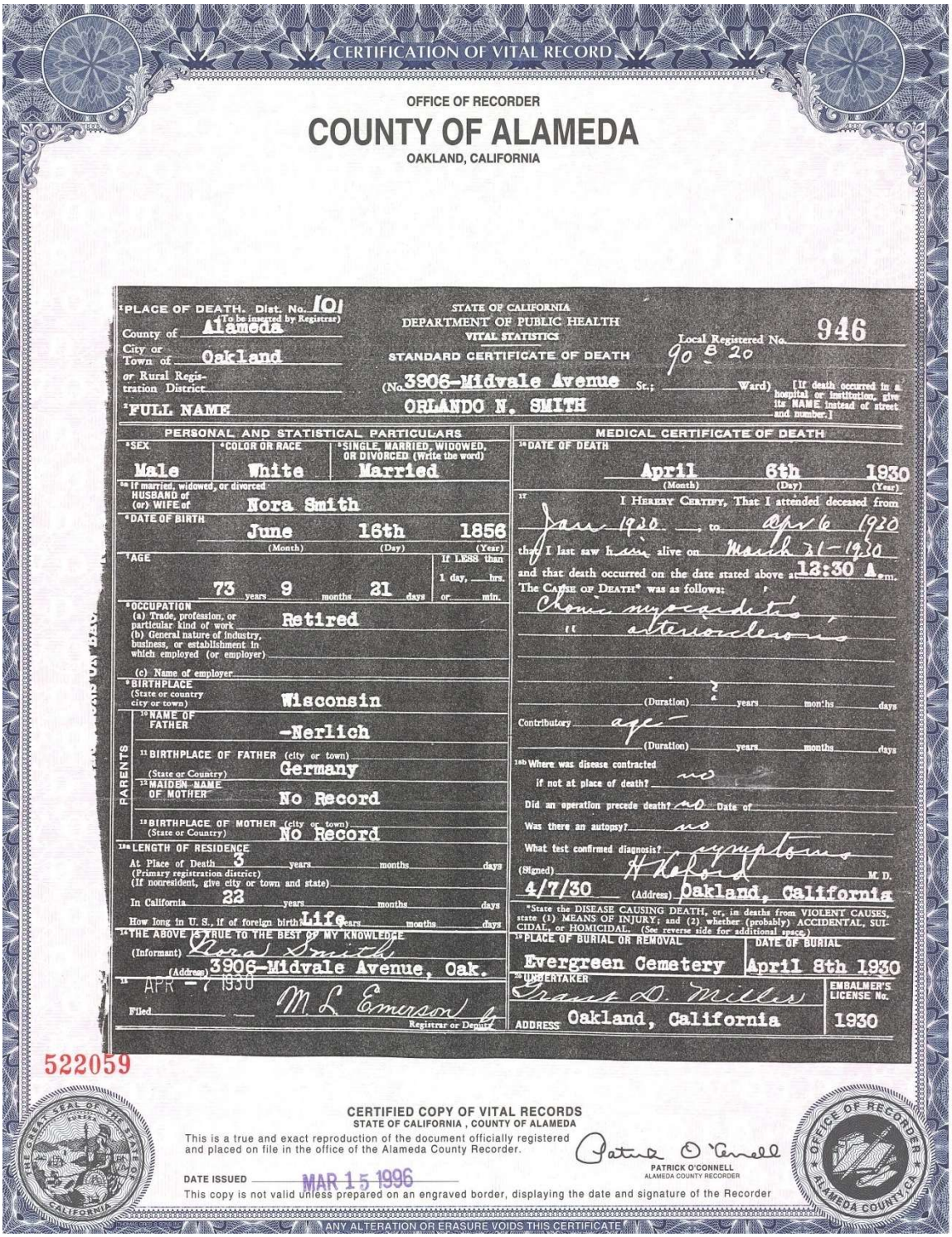
As witnessed this July 14, 1875
Signed A. Grantz

Attention of F. E. Sutherland and A. Bertall

Bill of Sale: To Frederick Nehrlich from Adolf Grantz.
Filed at the request of F. Nehrlich on June 11, 1875 @ 8:30 oc am.
Recorded 6/11/1875 at 11:30 oc am. in Book S of Deeds at pages 253-4
W. H. Hill Rrecorder of El Dorado, California
By E. H. Hitmer (Witmer?)

[127] The above notes were taken from papers found in the safe of Mrs. Dorothy Wirth whose husband, Clarence Wirth was the grandchild of Orlando Smith.

DEATH RECORD OF
ORLANDO N. SMITH



CERTIFICATION OF VITAL RECORD

OFFICE OF RECORDER

COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
VITAL STATISTICS
STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1 PLACE OF DEATH. Dist. No. 101 (To be inserted by Registrar)
County of Alameda
City or Town of Oakland
or Rural Registration District

Local Registered No. 946
90 8 20

(No. 3906-Midvale Avenue St.; Ward) [If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number.]

2 FULL NAME ORLANDO N. SMITH

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3 SEX: Male
4 COLOR OR RACE: White
5 SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED (Write the word): Married
6a If married, widowed, or divorced HUSBAND of (or) WIFE of: Nora Smith
6 DATE OF BIRTH: June (Month) 16th (Day) 1856 (Year)
7 AGE: 73 years 9 months 21 days. If LESS than 1 day, hrs. or min.
8 OCCUPATION (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work: Retired
(b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer)
(c) Name of employer
9 BIRTHPLACE (State or country city or town): Wisconsin

PARENTS
10 NAME OF FATHER: -Nerlich
11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (city or town) (State or Country): Germany
12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER: No Record
13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (city or town) (State or Country): No Record

14a LENGTH OF RESIDENCE
At Place of Death 3 years months days (Primary registration district) (If nonresident, give city or town and state)
In California 22 years months days
How long in U. S., if of foreign birth? Life years months days

14 I THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE
(Informant) Nora Smith
(Address) 3906-Midvale Avenue, Oak.

15 APR - 7 1930
Filed M L Emerson
Registrar or Deputy

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

16 DATE OF DEATH: April (Month) 6th (Day) 1930 (Year)

17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from Jan 1930, to Apr 6 1930
that I last saw him alive on March 31-1930
and that death occurred on the date stated above at 13:30 A.m.
The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows:
Chronic myocarditis
" arteriosclerosis
(Duration) years months days
Contributory age
(Duration) years months days

16b Where was disease contracted if not at place of death? no
Did an operation precede death? no Date of
Was there an autopsy? no
What test confirmed diagnosis? symptoms
(Signed) H Telford M. D.
4/7/30 (Address) Oakland, California

*State the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH, or, in deaths from VIOLENT CAUSES, state (1) MEANS OF INJURY; and (2) whether (probably) ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL, or HOMICIDAL. (See reverse side for additional space.)

18 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL: Evergreen Cemetery
DATE OF BURIAL: April 8th 1930
20 UNDERTAKER: Grant D. Miller
ADDRESS: Oakland, California
EMBALMER'S LICENSE No.: 1930

522059

CERTIFIED COPY OF VITAL RECORDS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA , COUNTY OF ALAMEDA
This is a true and exact reproduction of the document officially registered and placed on file in the office of the Alameda County Recorder.
DATE ISSUED MAR 15 1996
PATRICK O'CONNELL
ALAMEDA COUNTY RECORDER
This copy is not valid unless prepared on an engraved border, displaying the date and signature of the Recorder

ANY ALTERATION OR ERASURE VOIDS THIS CERTIFICATE

ORLANDO SMITH'S LETTERS
TO HIS DAUGHTER
ROSEMOND N. SMITH-WIRTH

The following materials are transcripts of letters written by Orlando Smith, to his daughter, Rosamond Nancy Smith-Wirth. He is writing from Oakland, CA where he relocated. The first of these letters deals with a description of the New Troy, Michigan, area when Orlando was a boy. Based upon the reference to the bridge over the Galien River, it is possible that this letter was in reply to an inquiry about building a new bridge over the river and the age of the one to be replaced. A new bridge was built at the bottom of "Clay Hill" and replaced an older one that was located a few tens of feet to the South East of the present bridge's location. There may have been a tax problem or some kind of squabble that raised a question about the old bridge's age and a need to write to Charlie Brodbeck. The Brodbeck farm was a mile or so south of "Clay Hill' on what is now Mill Rd at the 45 degree corner turning south. Warmbein now owns that land.

The second letter (dated November 12, 1932) is concerned mostly with discussions of property holdings, tax concerns, and the sale of honey, etc. The third and last letter (December 19, 1923) is quite sad. It is clear that Orlando's wife Anna (Gramme) is quite ill and Orlando himself is feeling that he may die also. He gives his daughter very clear instructions about how to get to his home, who to avoid and who to seek out. Orlando seems to be both asking for help and also trying to tell his daughter of her inheritance should he die.

JohnWirth

September 2d, 1919

Rosamond;

I will answer yours of August 21st.

When I was a small boy like your little Clarence, New Troy was then in thick & heavy timber; Oak, Whitewood, Pine, Elm, Beach & other timber. Roads were then used where it was easiest to make them, regardless of where they were surveyed or whether section or quarter lined. Heavy swamps were where there is fine farms now. The road from the top of the hill east of the grist mill to the Galien River Bridge was not opened & used before 1868 or 1869 so far as I am able to remember, & the supreme reason why I remember so distinctly is because I could find no better place to ride down hill (& the only place beside was in front of the school house) was where the road shows from A. A. Morley's house in the crude map I enclose. The old road was the best place us small boys could find until the grist mill was built. There was a bridge over what is now the head of the race to lead the water from the old saw mill race to the grist mill. I run off this old bridge once, sled & all, onto the ice. After the grist mill was built we had things fine the winter Amos George taught which was 1869 I am almost certain. I have no remembrance of the road being used from the Galien River Bridge due east to the top of the hill before 1869. Charles Brodbeck, John Brodbeck, Anna Briggs (Hinchman), Lib Sheldon (Doxie), Ritta and Asa Hollet and others passed over this road twice a day going and coming to school I can tell for certain. I do not want Henry Morley to be compelled to do what perhaps the taxpayers should do nor force the taxes on the public, but you write Charlie Brodbeck. He is better filled than I am to ans. this for reasons given you.

1866 & 1867	R. V. Clark
1868	Joseph Rodgers
1869	Amos George
1870	David A. Ewing
1871	James Dushane

He will tell who the teacher was. Charlie Brodbeck is your man for this matter. Anna was there too. Lib Sheldon lived 1 1/2 miles SW in 1865 when old Reuben Schaeffer taught and remembers the old road past the old saw mill up the hill past Morley's barn and then due east.

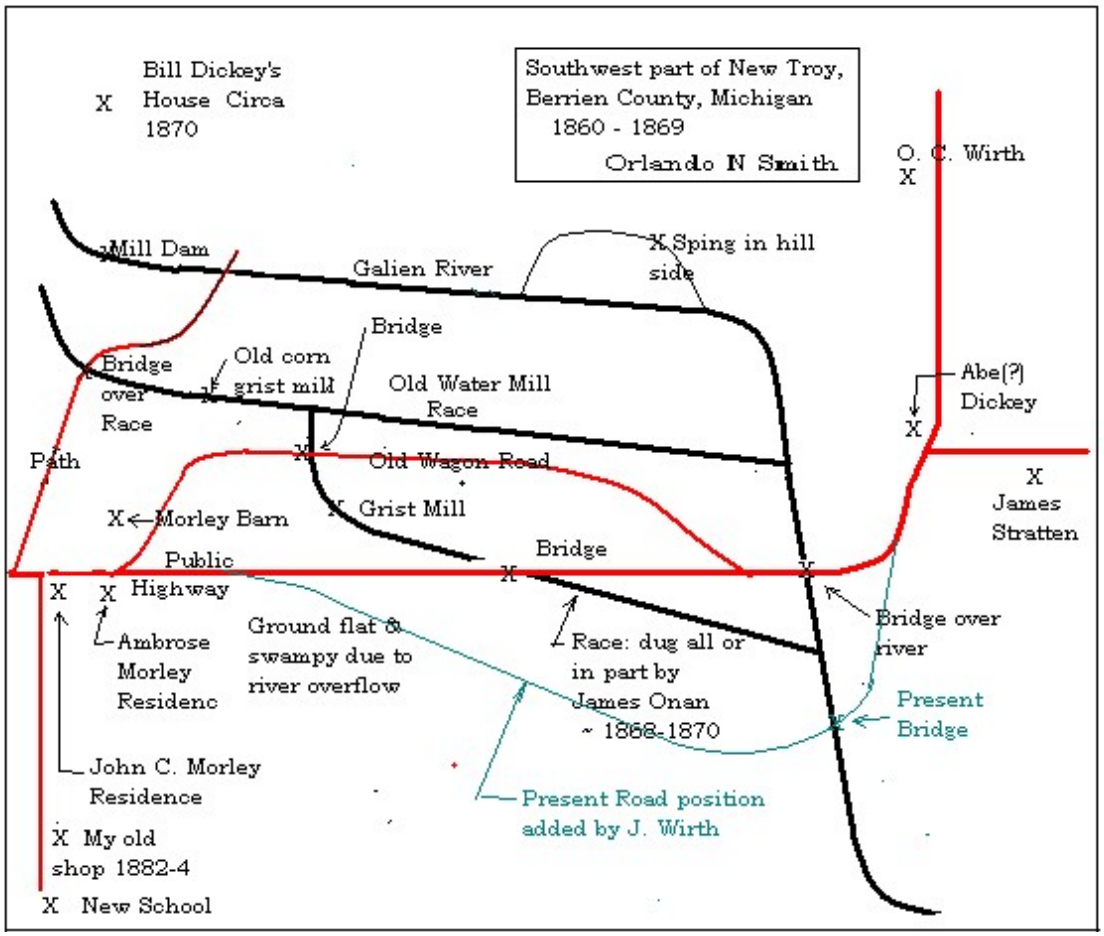
Gramme had to go this morning before she had time to write. We will write again & tell you all the news & about the fleet. Here is a picture of some of the big guns for Clarence to look at. Come to look for the paper. It gone. Gamme lighted fire with it. I will send you some cough recpts. with next letter.

We are all well. We had a surprise of our lives last Saturday. Someone from Chicago called. Live now at Vallejo, pronounced Val Lay yo.

With Love to All
I am your father

O. N. Smith

South West part of the Village of New Troy. North is down in this figure.

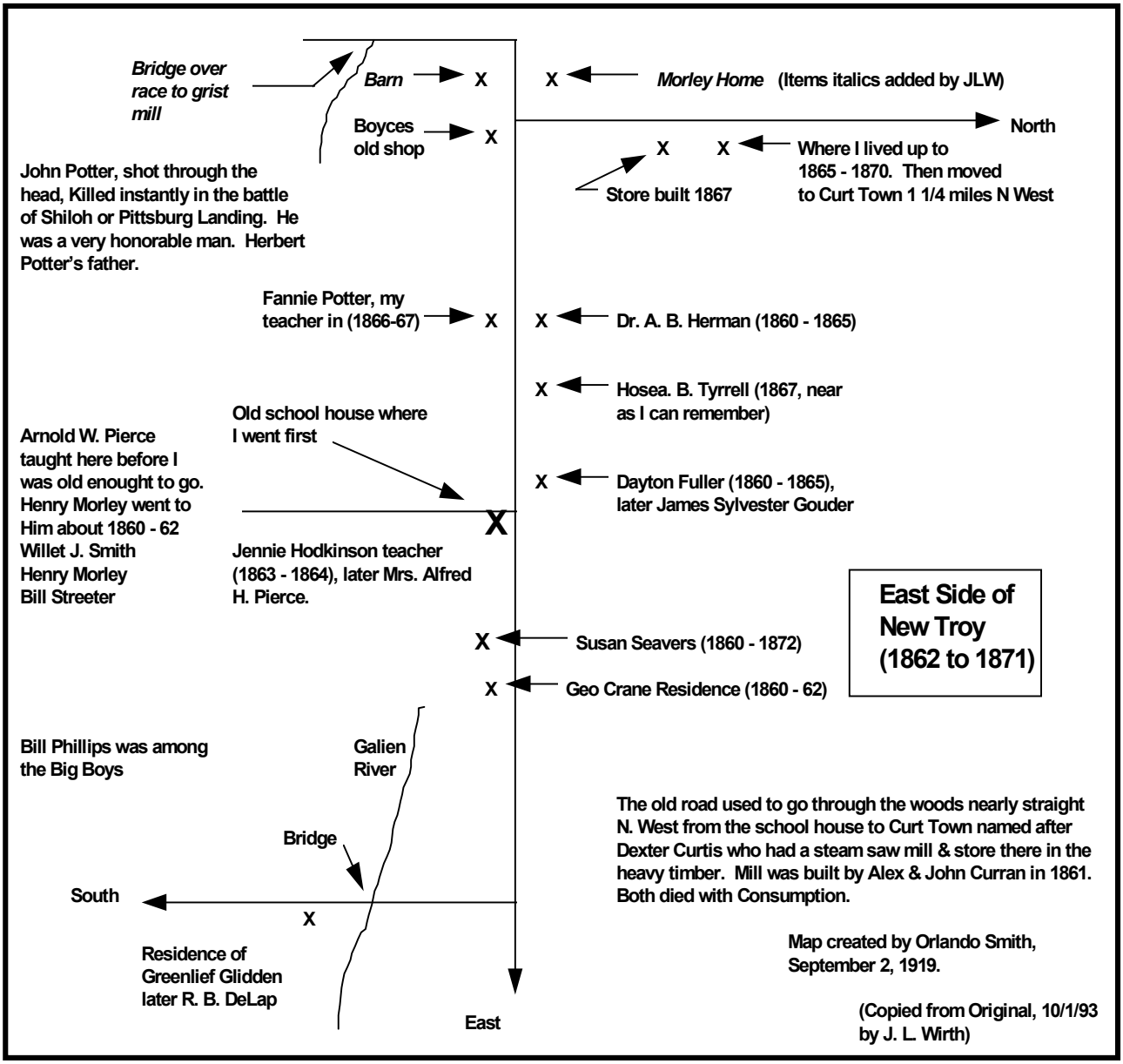


Notes on South West New Troy map: The above is a reconstruction by J. Wirth of a map drawn by Orlando N. Smith detailing the approximate location of various roads, bridges, etc. on the SW side of New Troy in the 1860-1870 timeframe. The black lines denote river or race beds, the red are roads and the green shows the approximate position of the present road. The mill dam is probably the first to be constructed and provided water to a saw mill located on upper portion of the "Old water mill race". There must have been a second dam not shown that was located roughly where the words "Old water mill race" are to force water to the newer grist mill. The original map contains various notes not reproduced in this reconstruction and are:

Old Corn Grist Mill: Uncle Dick Carroll, Miller
Grist Mill: S. P. Bryant, Miller
Path: Where I used to go fishing
Old Wagon Road: Where I road down hill, 1865-1868

New School: Reuben Schaefer first teacher 1865
Bridge over New Grist Mill Race: Race and Bridge built about 1868/9
Public Highway: The old wagon road was used before this. The straight or section line may have been surveyed but I have no recollection of it being open to traffic before 1869.
Grist Mill: Built by Samuel Romans, carpenter and father to Aunt Celestine Smith

South East map of New Troy


Bridge over race to grist mill
Barn
Boyces old shop
Morley Home (Items italics added by JLW)
North
Where I lived up to 1865 - 1870. Then moved to Curt Town 1 1/4 miles N West
Store built 1867
John Potter, shot through the head, Killed instantly in the battle of Shiloh or Pittsburg Landing. He was a very honorable man. Herbert Potter's father.
Fannie Potter, my teacher in (1866-67)
Dr. A. B. Herman (1860 - 1865)
Hosea. B. Tyrrell (1867, near as I can remember)
Old school house where I went first
Arnold W. Pierce taught here before I was old enought to go. Henry Morley went to Him about 1860 - 62
Willet J. Smith
Henry Morley
Bill Streeter
Dayton Fuller (1860 - 1865), later James Sylvester Gouder
Jennie Hodkinson teacher (1863 - 1864), later Mrs. Alfred H. Pierce.
East Side of New Troy (1862 to 1871)
Susan Seavers (1860 - 1872)
Geo Crane Residence (1860 - 62)
Bill Phillips was among the Big Boys
Galien River
Bridge
South
Residence of Greenlief Glidden later R. B. DeLap
East
The old road used to go through the woods nearly straight N. West from the school house to Curt Town named after Dexter Curtis who had a steam saw mill & store there in the heavy timber. Mill was built by Alex & John Curran in 1861. Both died with Consumption.
Map created by Orlando Smith, September 2, 1919.
(Copied from Original, 10/1/93 by J. L. Wirth)

November 12th 1923 Oakland California

Rosamond. We are quite well. My honey is all sold and I am hustling insurance once more. Nov 3rd I delivered a $2000.00 25 year endowment, & one like it. The Commission of $50.00 will come in handy to replace the $30.87 I just paid for my yearly taxes. Taxes are due Oct 16 in Cal. & can be paid in 2 equal divisions or all at one time. A 15% penalty if not paid before the 1st Monday in Dec. on 1st division. A 20% on 2d division if overdue in April. On Sept. 18th I went to Sacramento & from there to the 10 acre tract I bought in 1909. In my next letter I will mail you a complete description of this land. It may be yours sometime & you take good care of what I send. The land is part of Section 2 Twp 4 North and Range 7 East San Jaoquin County, Cal & known as the O. C. Dustin Tract No. 9 ten acres. It is now worth not less than $200 an acre & may be $250. Land all in San Jaoquine grape belt 2 to 6 hundred $ an acre. I am in the thick of the Tokay grape belt. Lodi is 9 miles Southwest and Lockford 5 or 6 miles S. East & fine roads. Take Electric line south from Sacramento to Kenefect station. The go 3 1/2 miles east and 1 mile south. Ask for Mr. J. T. Kinnefict at the station or 3 1/2 miles east for J. R. Clow, or a German Mr. Cluno. These three men are old settlers. Galt is their Post Office... Mr. Cluno went with me when I was there. Mr. Cluno told me he made $460 an acre on his grapes this year. Remember, Stockton is the county seat, 40,000 inhabitants. Keep this sheet carefully.

Dec 19th, 1923

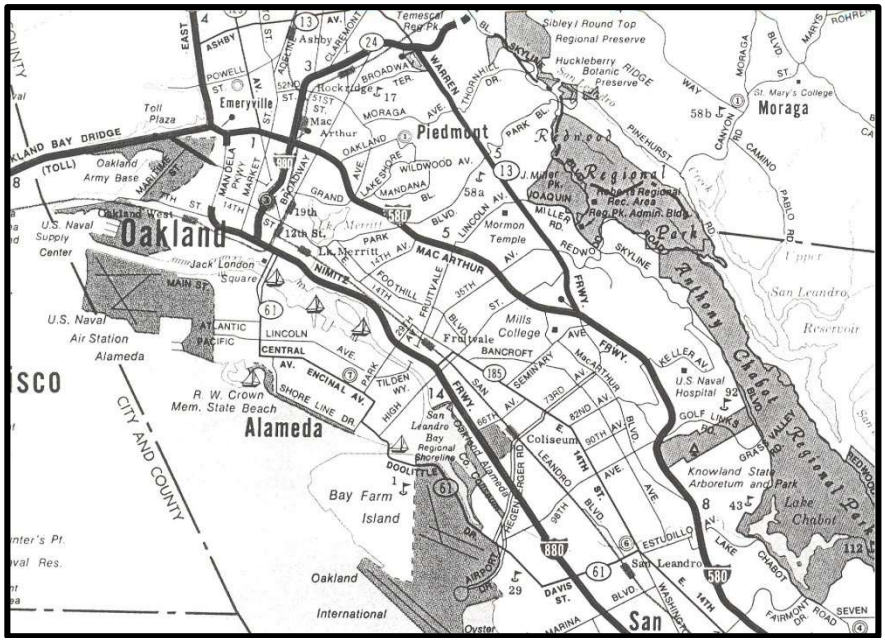
Rosa, yours recd. & for lack of time will send you a short letter followed later more fully stating matters. Gramme is very low in the Alameda Co hospital 3 miles from Hayward and 10 from Oakland. I was there yesterday with a Notary Public & have all the property in my name. Save probating at a saving of $125. Papers will be recorded should she die, or even recover & you will get all in due time that I have, but help your old and almost helpless (financially temporarily) with funds for board until April when my honey comes in. I am living alone and 2 1/2 a week will hold me up. Should you get a telegram come at once. I have arranged with Dr. Caldwell & E. D. Miller to notify you if anything happens to me & you answer them by wire. Miller lives at 660 55 St. Oak., Phone Piedmont 7749W. Caldwell lives at 1911 Fruitvale Ave. Phone Fruitvale 688. Keep this letter carefully for future reference. Rev Ralph Gray is paster of our Nazaren church. I kept Gramme home as long as I could & hired a nurse until I played out. Could scarce stand on my feet being up night & day. Come near collapsing. Caldwell told me to quit the church. Came here and almost demanded one to...

You have no idea how much different it is here in Cal from Mich. in all matters. I can scarce get around on my pins this morn from overwork & lack of proper diet for past week. I go to hospital daily. Takes all pm. to go and come. Weather is warm & beautiful. Only slight rain. Bees working like summer. I am going to begin at once to find a buyer for the Lodi 10 acres, part if not all my bees & my 100 fine leghorn chicks either to live on or for funeral expenses as the good lord directs. I must go & try to dispose of the chickens. It is market day. will send you a letter tomorrow.

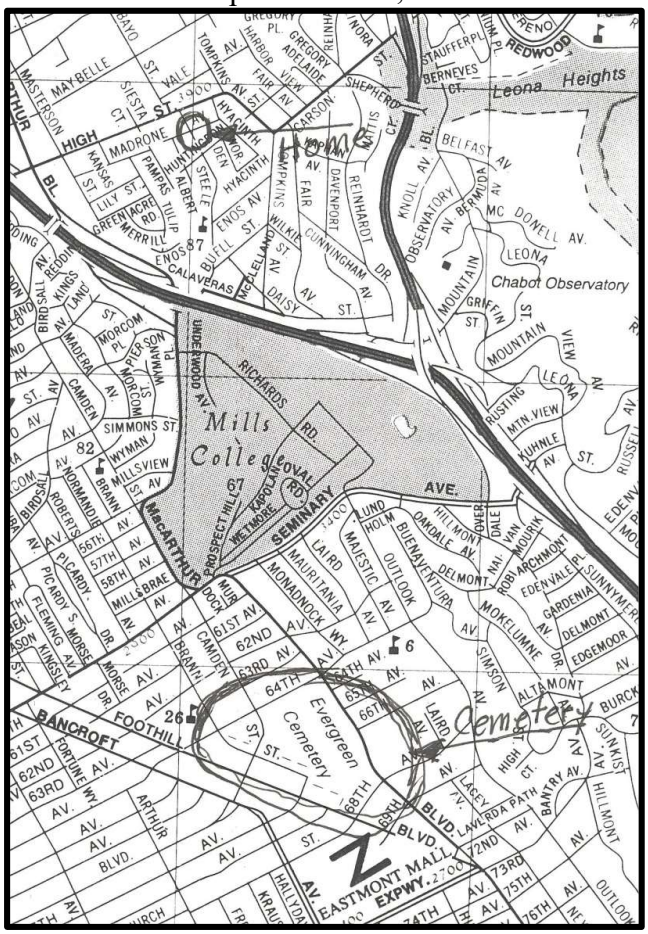
Should you be sent for & I not here our toilet is under our back porch & hanging up on the right hand side is a feat key for front porch. Plenty kindling in basement & key on chain on shelf behind the kitchen door so you could save hotel bills. Take Mills College car to Rose Ave. 5 minute walk toward the hills. 4350 Steel St. Corner of Madrone Ave. White house. Should you come tell Mrs Pryse nothing you know. She is the scourge of the neighborhood & expert in gossip & asking questions. Beware of her.

Your father,

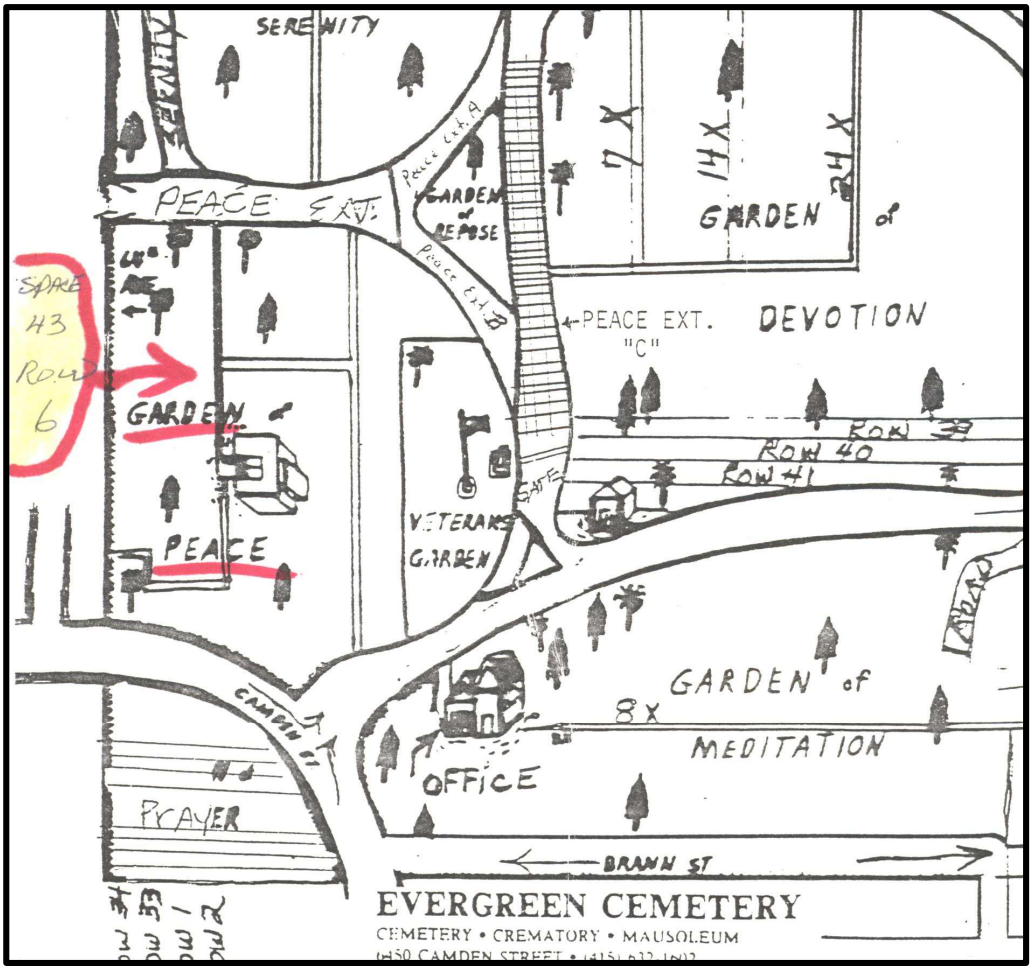
O. N. Smith



Map of Oakland, CA



Location of Evergreen Cemetery and home



The maps on the previous page show where Orlando and his first wife Anna lived and show where the Evergreen Cemetery is located in Oakland, CA. The map above shows the location within the Evergreen Cemetery where Orlando is buried. He is buried in the Garden of Peace section, space 43 of row 6 in an unmarked grave.

The two photographs on the next page show Orlando and Anna's home at 4350 Steele as it existed in 1993. An author took them while on a business trip to the Oakland area.

ORLANDO'S PHOTOS

O. N. Smith
May 30, 1870
Taken in
St. Joseph, MI

Orlando, Rosemond
& Rosa Adell Smith
Dakota Territory 1886

Circa 1889
Orlando, Rosemond
Rosa A. Weston – ~~Smith~~
holding Grace Smith

Rosa & Grace
~1889

A

1886

"Rosa. Here is a picture of your mother, you and myself taken in 1886 in Watertown Dakota Territory before the territory was divided into two states. My 160 acres was the N.E ¼ of section 6 Township 119 North and Range 54 West on the county line 27 miles west of Watertown
O. N. Smith"

"Grandpa & his lamb"
~ 1916

B

Circa 1887

1888

Rosemond Nancy Smith

C

Rosemond & Grace Smith
Circa 1891
Photo by A.R. & O.N. Smith
Alonzo & Orlando (?)

D

Rosemond and Grace Smith
Negative 1895
by their father
Orlando N. Smith
Niles, MI

Rosemond N. Smith

~1897

Rosemond & Grace Smith

1895

E

"Rosa Adell, my 1st Wife. Negative made July, 1889. O.N. Smith"

F

"Taken March 20, 1916"

"Anna & Tommy March 9, 1919"

"Gramme & I in 1918"

"Anna with my old work hat on"

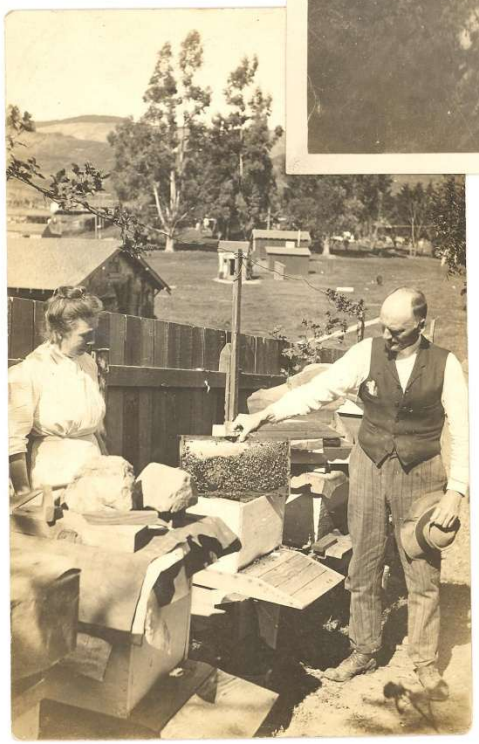
"March 9, 1919"

"Dinner is now Ready."

G

O. N. Smith
and
Anna L. Smith
my 2nd wife
in 1912
Resp. ONSmith

"Gram and her
Chickens



Taken March 25, 1916
O. N. Smith born
Sheboygan, WIS.
June 16, 1856
Anna Smith born
May 22, 1855
We are both 60 in
1916

H

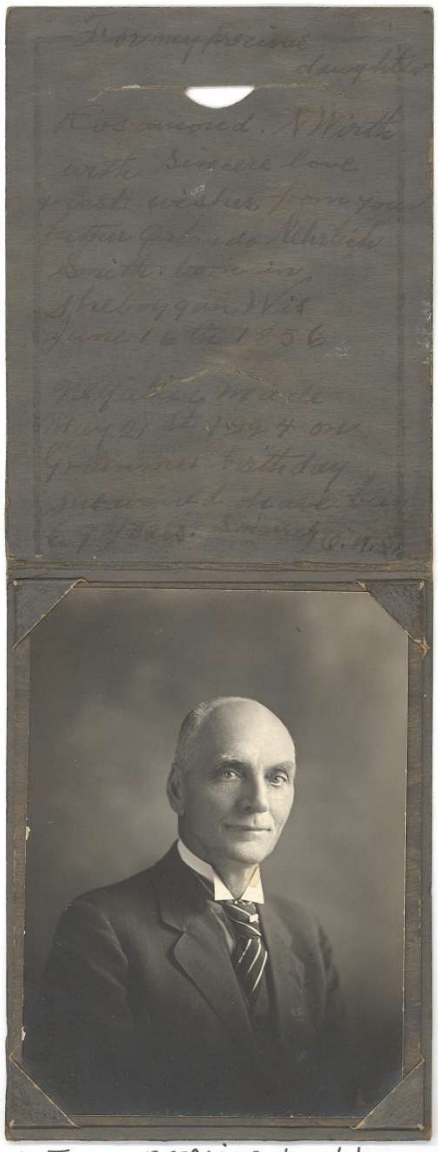
Rosemond Nancy Smith
9/26/1902

Rosemond M. Burdick-Weston
Mother of Rosa Adell Weston & Rosemond Smith's Grandmother
Age 74
7/4/1904

O.N Smith and Step Grandmother
Father of Rosen Wirth

"Rosemond. Taken January, 1907
Age 51."

J



11 To my precious daughter Rosemond N. Wirth with sincere love and best wishes from your Father Orlando Nehrlich Smith born Sheboygan Wis June 16, 1856. Negative made May 21, 1924 on Grandma's birthday. She would have been 69 years Sincerely O. N. Smith

To Lois Mae Wirth from Grandpa Smith June 2nd 1924. Born Sheboygan Wis June 16, 1856. Negative made May 21, 1924.

K

~1993 photos of Orlando's home @ 4350 Steele, Oakland, CA

L

HA! THE EDITOR STILL HAS A CHANCE

Editor:—Your paper "The En-rise", is a dandy and I am send-you a couple of stranzas for your encouragement and comfort.

You may put this in your issue for my friends and relatives in Bridgman and New Troy, to read and smile over, if you wish. My little granddaughter, Lois Wirth, is one of the teachers in your public school.

The Editor's Reward

The editor died and went to heaven,
But stood outside the gate;
Because he hadn't the nerve to knock
And thought that he would wait
Till some other mortals came along,
He'd see what they would do,
And if they entered the pearly gate,
ought he might slip through;
tched the vast procession pass
the portals wide,
While Peter told some they were up
too high,
And others he took inside.

The editor, weary of waiting so long,
Finally got in line
To see if Peter would accept him then
Or would with thanks decline.
He heard the sweet voiced angels sing,
His eyes filled to the brim;
He shivered and shoop in agony,
Knowing his chances were slim.
"Ah, ha!" said Peter, "an editor here?"
(He laughed with pure delight.)
"Why certainly, you may come right
in;
For all you did was write."

O. N. SMITH,
Oakland, Calif.

Letter to "the Enteprise" by Orlando N. Smith Circa 1925

M

Otis Clarence Wirth | 1883-1958

Otis was born on March 6, 1883, the second child of John Franklin and Rosa Elizabeth Raven-Wirth. Otis (on the right below) and his older brother, Herbert F. are shown in the photo below with their parents.

When this photo was taken in about 1886, the family lived in a log cabin constructed in the early 1870s when John began to homestead the farm prior to his marriage to Rosa in 1876. During the 1880s, Otis and Herb probably helped their father with the livestock and clearing land for expansion of the farm. Their mother also needed their help with gardening, canning, etc.

The authors recall Herb and Otis reminiscing about those days and relating that in the winter it was common to awaken with a dusting of snow on their blankets. The snow had blown in through the rough hand-split roof shingles and since it was below freezing in the loft where they slept, the snow settled on their beds. They also attended the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago with their parents, and it was there that John encountered new ideas (e.g. internal running water) that he, Otis and Herb incorporated when they designed a large frame home constructed in 1905/6.

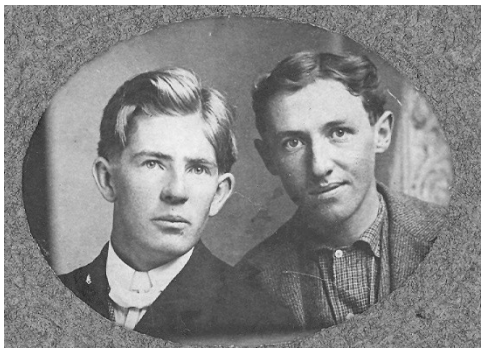
The first priority, however, was to construct proper farm buildings to replace the slab pole barn that was a companion to the log cabin. In 1893, Otis and his family built a granary, followed by a large barn in 1898. Otis is shown in about 1900 below (left) with his brother Herb, mother and father (on wagon) in front of these buildings.

While it would seem that life would be pretty solitary with only bicycles and horses for transportation, they moved about quite readily. The horse and surrey shown with Otis' mother could easily keep up an 8-10 mph pace for an hour or more, putting larger towns such as South Bend, IN within reach of about two hours. Farms such as these regularly sent produce to nearby towns starting with a wagon in early morning and returning late at night.

Otis seemed to have a modestly well-to-do upbringing. His father was a bit of an entrepreneur, building homes in cooperation with a neighbor, working for the township, etc. They appear well dressed in the family photo above. It took a lot of resources to build these building and a large frame home in those days. A major source of income may have come from selling trees to lumber dealers in the years following the Chicago fire.

Otis was also well educated for the time. He went to elementary school in a nearby one-room school (Elm Valley) and then graduated from New Troy High School in 1901. This school offered classes through the 10th grade, a high level of education for that time. It was there that he met his wife-to-be, Rosemond N. Smith who also graduated in 1901. A high school degree was even rarer for a woman in those days. Their education must have had strong support from their parents.

His early religious training was influenced by his paternal grandmother who was a member of the Evangelical Association denomination. She and her second husband Jacob Vetter had helped found a church of that denomination located about a mile from the Wirth farm. Otis' brother Herb was married in that church, and Otis is shown in church documents as being an active member. The photo here (ca 1900) shows Otis with a very young-looking minister of that church, Rev. Johnson.



On June 3, 1903, Otis married Rosemond Nancy Smith, the daughter of Orlando N. Smith and Rose Adell Weston-Smith. They were both about 20 years old at time. It is unclear where they lived in their early married life, but it is possible that they lived with Otis' parents in the log cabin which had by that time been enlarged with the addition of two lean-to type additions. A two-story frame house was then built in 1905/6 to replace the log cabin and that became their home in future years.

On November 9, 1904, Otis' father had a large sale of farm equipment, cattle, horses, etc. with total proceeds of $847.45. Otis spent $320.30 and Herb $28.00. The need for the sale is not clear, but it could have been caused by the failing health of Otis' father and the transition of the estate to the two brothers.

On April 12, 1906, John Franklin died of tuberculosis. The terms of his will transferred ownership of the farm to Otis' mother with the stipulation that she take good care of his mother Mrs. Mary Behner who was living at the farm at the time of John's death. Further, upon the death of Otis' mother (which occurred 2/5/33), Otis is to inherit the farm and pay his brother Herb $3000 representing 50% of the value of the estate. Thus, Otis ultimately became the owner of the 120-acre farm that is still owned by the Wirth family.

Otis and Rosemond had 4 children. The first, Lois, was born on Mary 17, 1906. The second, Leona was born on June 20, 1911 but was still-borne. The third, Clarence

John, was born in November 4, 1912 and Paul was born on August 17, 1916. Paul had an eating disorder of some kind and lived only a few months. The photo below shows their family in about 1923: L-R, Lois, Otis, Clarence and Rosemond.

Otis and Rosemond passed on their emphasis of education to their children, both of whom attended elementary school at Elm Valley. Lois graduated from Three Oaks high school and, after college, was an accredited schoolteacher for many years. Clarence graduated from New Troy High School and attended Parks Air College until the depression made it impossible to continue his studies. The author Guy remembers that at dinner with the family, a frequent question from Otis to his grandchildren was "What did you learn at school today?" That was a subtle but powerful communication of what he thought was important.

As a married couple, Otis and Rosemond were active members of the New Troy Methodist Church (later the Community Church) and the church's social group Mespah. They also had an active social life with their neighbors (Brodbecks, Mosts, Roberts, Briggs, Williams, among others) and with Rosemond's relatives in nearby Bridgman.

Otis and his mother enjoyed the idea that they owned a large farm and home. He also enjoyed having a good car even at times when the finances were tight. In 1915, he bought a brass-radiator Ford Touring car and built a small garage for it. He purchased a Dodge Turing car in 1918. Then on May 9, 1923 he purchased an Essex Touring car from the Earl Priest dealership for $1125. It is shown below with him standing beside. These were times when taxes were rising quickly to pay for the expansion of roads, schools, bridges, etc. and farming income was not keeping pace.

In 1933, his son Clarence married Dorothy O'Barton who he met in high school. They moved into the home with Otis and Rosemond. Within a few weeks, Otis and Rosemond moved into a rental house in New Troy, and then to a house they purchased. Otis and Rosemond deeded ½ interest of the farm to Clarence in 1933. Never-the-less, Otis made almost daily trips to the farm, working the farm as he had from a youth. Otis still held strong opinions on how things should be done and there were occasional debates between the two as to the appropriate course of action. While Otis was convinced that horses were a mainstay in running a farm, notes in ledgers kept by the family suggests that Clarence purchased a 1925 McCormick 10-20 tractor for $900 in l933. Other larger and more modern tractors were then purchased, including a grain combine in the late 1930s. Clarence became convinced that the farm could be more efficiently run without horses, but Otis stood adamantly against that change. The issue was settled in about 1940 when Otis suffered several broken ribs when a team ran away. That ended the debate and the horses were sold to Oscar Synold, a former neighbor and livestock dealer.

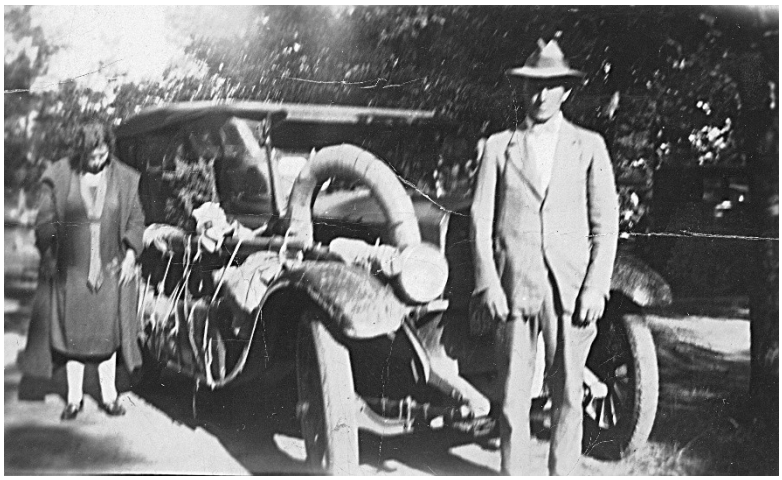
Otis continued to drive out to the farm almost daily but, like many who learned to drive cars and tractors after being raised in the horse and buggy days, he was a notoriously bad driver. His daughter-in-law Dorothy was afraid that he would run over one of her children and lectured them on the danger of being around the car when Grandpa was driving. So, when he drove into the drive, any child in the yard headed at full speed for the safety of the porch or a nearby tree. However, tricycles/bicycles and other toys met a violent end under his wheels. It was joked that he was one of the few drivers who might back into a building even if it was fully engulfed in flames. He just didn't look behind the car as he backed up.

As a youth, Otis had scarlet fever that damaged his heart. As a result, his health was compromised in his later years and Clarence took control of managing and running the farm during the late 1930 and 1940s. Never the less, Otis maintained a desire to work on

the farm as his health permitted. But, it was increasingly evident that heart disease was limiting his activities. One day, he was in the fields stacking bales of straw. When he didn't come in for the noon meal, his grandson John was sent to get him and found him in a semiconscious state slumped in the shade of one of the stacks.

Rosemond died in 1947 and Otis moved in with Clarence and Dorothy and their children. He occupied a room upstairs. In 1948, a bathroom was added upstairs to facilitate that arrangement. Otis' income during this time was a monthly stipend from Clarence and Dorothy, payments on the mortgage he held on the farm.

Over the years from 1910 when his brother Herb moved to Idaho, Otis took several trips to Idaho to visit his brother Herb, and conversely[128]. In the 1920s, these trips had to be viewed as an adventure. The photo below appears to show Rosemond[129] on a trip to Idaho in the Essex Touring car. The car is loaded with camping equipment, spare tires, etc.



In another case, Herb and family were marooned in Montana when heavy rains washed out bridges and roads, leaving them stranded and living in tents for more than a week. After Rosemond's death, Otis took an extended automobile trip in 1947[130] in which he and Herb ventured from Idaho to Washington State, down the coast to Mexico and then returned via the Grand Canyon. After each trip, he returned with gifts and photographs for the family. For example, lamps made of redwood, a sombrero, a leather belt, a leather wallet come to the mind.

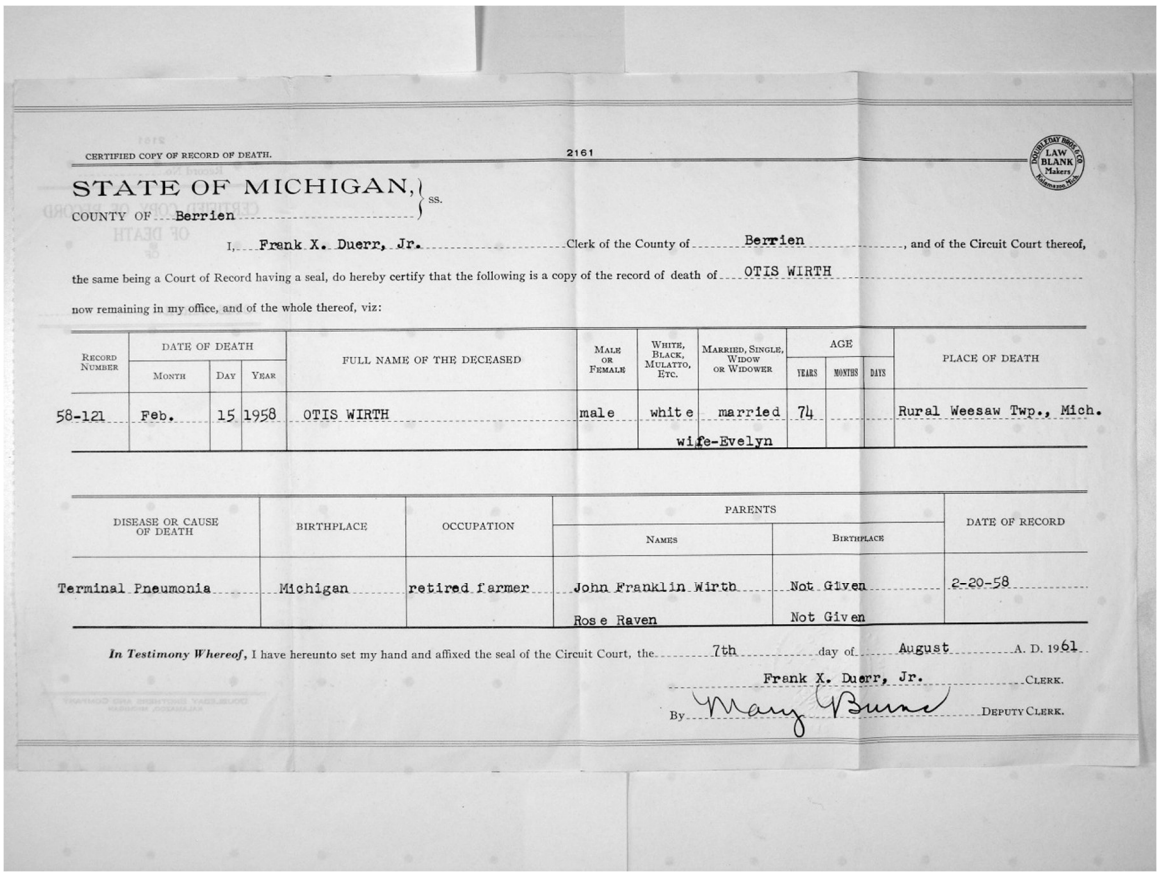
In 1950, Otis married Evelyn Wire as shown in the photo below. She was born and raised on a neighboring farm and taught home economics at New Troy High School. They purchased a house in New Troy across the street from the present New Troy

[128] The authors remember serveral visits by Herb and family to MI. Also, numerous photographs show Otis in Idaho in 1913, 1919, 1922, 1927, 1939, and 1947. See companion photo albums of Farm Photos.
[129] The man in the foreground is unknown, possibly Claude Hauger, or Jesse Beckwith.
[130] A transcription of the notes taken by Otis on this trip are included in the Appendix.

elementary school. Otis' congestive heart disease turned decidedly worse and by the mid-1950's he required in-home nurse care. During this time, the author Guy was attending high school at New Troy High School and 2 or 3 times a week walked to his house for noontime visits. Both knew that he was dying and tears were often shed when the visits ended.

Otis died of pneumonia on February 15, 1958 at his home in New Troy. Funeral services were held at the community church in New Troy and he is buried in the New Troy cemetery beside Rosemond.

Appendix



CERTIFIED COPY OF RECORD OF DEATH. 2161

STATE OF MICHIGAN, } ss.
COUNTY OF Berrien

I, Frank X. Duerr, Jr. Clerk of the County of Berrien, and of the Circuit Court thereof, the same being a Court of Record having a seal, do hereby certify that the following is a copy of the record of death of OTIS WIRTH now remaining in my office, and of the whole thereof, viz:

Record Number	Date of Death: Month	Day	Year	Full Name of the Deceased	Male or Female	White, Black, Mulatto, Etc.	Married, Single, Widow or Widower	Age: Years	Months	Days	Place of Death
58-121	Feb.	15	1958	OTIS WIRTH	male	white	married wife-Evelyn	74			Rural Weesaw Twp., Mich.

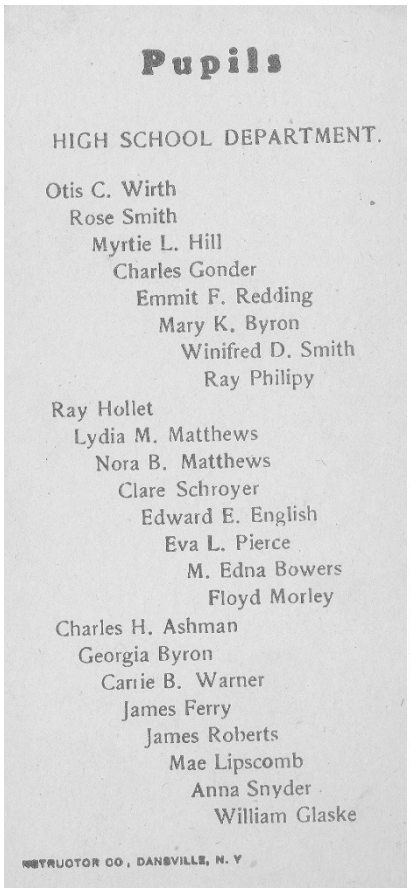
Disease or Cause of Death	Birthplace	Occupation	Parents: Names	Parents: Birthplace	Date of Record
Terminal Pneumonia	Michigan	retired farmer	John Franklin Wirth	Not Given	2-20-58
			Rose Raven	Not Given	

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Circuit Court, the 7th day of August A. D. 1961

Frank X. Duerr, Jr. Clerk.

By Mary Bunce Deputy Clerk.

Otis Wirth Death Certificate

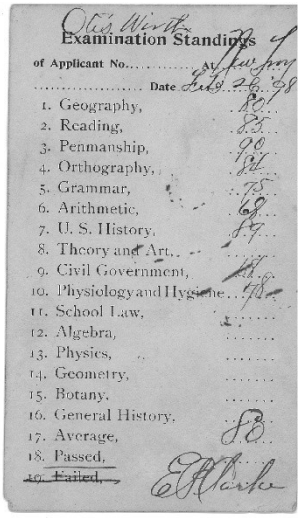


Pupils

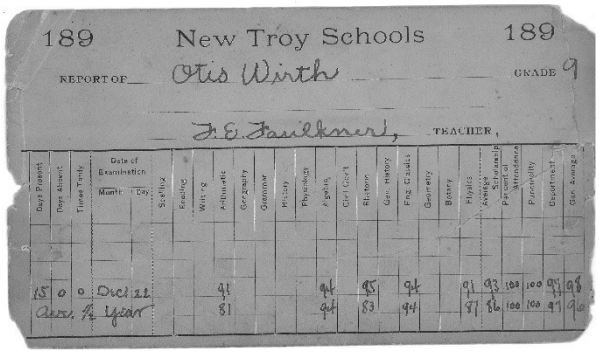
HIGH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

Otis C. Wirth
Rose Smith
Myrtie L. Hill
Charles Gonder
Emmit F. Redding
Mary K. Byron
Winifred D. Smith
Ray Philipy
Ray Hollet
Lydia M. Matthews
Nora B. Matthews
Clare Schroyer
Edward E. English
Eva L. Pierce
M. Edna Bowers
Floyd Morley
Charles H. Ashman
Georgia Byron
Carrie B. Warner
James Ferry
James Roberts
Mae Lipscomb
Anna Snyder
William Glaske

INSTRUCTOR CO., DANSVILLE, N. Y.



Otis Wirth
Examination Standings
of Applicant No. ..... At New Troy
..... Date Feb. 26, '98
1. Geography, 80
2. Reading, 85
3. Penmanship, 90
4. Orthography, 84
5. Grammar, 75
6. Arithmetic, 68
7. U. S. History, 87
8. Theory and Art, ...
9. Civil Government, ...
10. Physiology and Hygiene 78
11. School Law, ...
12. Algebra, ...
13. Physics, ...
14. Geometry, ...
15. Botany, ...
16. General History, ...
17. Average, 80
18. Passed, ...
~~19. Failed,~~ E. H. Clarke



189 New Troy Schools 189

REPORT OF Otis Wirth GRADE 9

F. E. Faulkner, TEACHER,

Days Present	Days Absent	Times Tardy	Date of Examination Month	Day	Spelling	Reading	Writing	Arithmetic	Geography	Grammar	History	Physiology	Algebra	Civil Govt	Rhetoric	Gen. History	Eng. Classics	Geometry	Botany	Physics	Average	Scholarship	Percent of Attendance	Punctuality	Deportment	Gen. Average
15	0	0	Oct	22				91					94		95		94			91	93	100	100	97	98
Ave.	½	Year						81					94		83		94			87	86	100	100	97	96

Graduation class of 1901

Otis' grades when transferring to New Troy (top) and as a freshman at New Troy High School (bottom)

Settlement of Otis Wirth Estate

Otis Wirth passed away on February 15, 1958. To settle his estate, a legal agreement was entered into on February 25th between Gladys Evelyn Wirth, Lois May Watson and Clarence J. Wirth. A copy of this agreement remains in the album. In this agreement, it was determined that Otis' entire estate consisted of a Promissory Note dated April 1, 1952 wherein Dorothy and Clarence Wirth promised to pay Otis $3600 with interest of 4.5% . A residual of $2400 remained as of April 1, 1957. To satisfy this remaining debt, Evelyn, Lois and Clarence agree to the following:

1. Clarence would pay Evelyn $200 applied against the principal and pay interest (4.5%) on the residual for one year to bring interest payments up to the time of Otis's death. Evelyn would then relinquish all rights to Otis' estate;

2. Clarence would pay all funeral and burial expenses for Otis, estimated to cost $1000 and this is also applied against the remaining principal; and

3. Clarence would give Lois a promissory note in the amount of ½ of the remaining principal from the original note. With these payments, the debt from the original note is deemed to be satisfied.

The settlement thus appears to give to each party about the following. First, Evelyn gets $200 cash whereby the principal of the original note is reduced to $2200. She also gets interest on that $2200 at 4.5% for one year totaling about $100 to bring the interest on the note up to date. She thus receives about $300 to satisfy her interest in the estate. Second, Clarence pays about $1000 for Otis' funeral and burial expenses. This further reduces the remaining balance of the original note to $1200. Finally, Clarence promises to pay Lois ½ of the remaining principal or $600.

To clear the debt remaining from the original promissory note ($2400), Clarence appears to pay $300 to Evelyn, $1000 to the funeral home, and $600 to Lois for a total of about $1900.

Since the note was taken out prior to Otis' marriage to Evelyn, she is not an heir. Only Lois and Clarence are heirs. The usual way of handling this sort of thing would be for Clarence to obtain a short term loan of $2400 plus $100 back interest and apply it to Otis' estate. Then, funeral expenses would be taken from the estate, reducing its value to $1500 which is then split equally between Clarence and Lois. In this way, Lois receives $750 and Clarence is left with the remainder of the short term loan ($2500 - $750) or $1750. This compares to $1900 assuming he would need to take out a loan to pay Evelyn, the funeral home and Lois. The extra $300 paid to Evelyn ($150 from Lois and $150 from Clarence) may be in recognition for her care for Otis in his later years and for her not challenging the estate settlement.

CAR TRIP TAKEN BY
OTIS AND HERBERT WIRTH
NOVEMBER 1, 1947

In the fall of 1947 after the death of his wife Rosemond, Otis traveled to Idaho to visit his brother Herbert Wirth. The trip apparently started in September when they toured the Twin Falls area. Later, they took an extended car trip around the entire west coast. The following is a transcription of a log kept by Otis Wirth on this extended trip with Herb.

It begins in Twin Falls, Idaho on November 1, 1947(?), and travels north through Idaho, then grazes Montana, and crosses northern Idaho into Washington. That route appears to be chosen to visit Frank Most who Otis and Herb probably knew in their younger days in Michigan. After visiting Most, they then travel south through San Francisco to Los Angeles and finally to Ruth Wirth-Bridgford's home. Ruth and Hazel, mentioned later, are Herb's daughters. Ruth's home was probably in Helendale, CA at that time. From there, they went south to Yuma, then east and north through Arizona to the Grand

Canyon, then up through Utah and finally back Twin Falls, ID. The log provides month/day dates for each stop but does not indicate the year of the journey. However, it is contained in a diary with calendars for the years 1946 and 1947. In addition, several cryptic notes are included in the very last page, one of which indicates that he saw the world largest tree on November 16, 1947. Unfortunately, one photo identifies a child who, from other data, was born in 1950, thus confusing the date. They apparently spent 10 days in Challis, ID before starting. Several photos of their time in Challis survive, showing them fishing and on horseback. This trip was taken after the death of both Otis and Herb's wives so they were probably traveling alone. Photos from the trip are in the folder entitled "Dorothy and Clarence, 1930 onward."

John L. Wirth
July 15, 2007

Frank Most
Gr. R4 Box 355 Tacoma Washington Box 549-3 Routt.

Left Twin Falls Nov. 1st. Arrived in Challis at 4:30.

Left Challis Nov. 11 at 9 am and got to Clark Fort (sic Fork) at 6 pm. Going through Idaho we went through snow 8 in. deep in the mountains. Through Montana it was through a valley and was not cold. Traveled 360 miles the first day.

Nov. 12, Wed. Left Clark Fork at 7:10 and arrived at Wenatchee at 6:30 pm. Traveled 300 miles. From Clark Fork through the northern end of Idaho was through woods. From New Port to Spokane was like driving through northern Michigan. West of Spokane we went through farming country, all wheat, then sage and rocks. Up to Grand Coulee Dam was through a large canyon. Wenatchee is a large city down in the valley.

Nov. 13. Left Wenatchee at 7:45. This was all apples in a valley, a very pretty place. When we left the valley on our way to Seattle, we went through pine woods. Seattle was a hilly city. From Seattle to Tacoma was 40 miles. Stayed at Frank Most's all night. Had a hard time finding his place.

Left this place at 9:30 am. Traveled 195 miles today. From Most's we went to Olympia, then took 99 to Longview. Crossed the Columbia River (cost $1.00), then to 30 to Astoria, then 101 and got to Tillamook at 5 pm. The first place I saw the ocean was at Seaside. The road was through valleys and woods to Lewis and Clark State Park. A pretty place. Traveled 235 miles. Rained all day and still raining tonight,
Friday the 14th.
Left Tillamook at 6 am. The road side was about the same as yesterday. Stopped at Sea Lion Caves and say the sea lions in their natural life. Arrived at Gold Beach at 6:30. Traveled 243 miles.

Left Gold Beach Nov. 15 (sic Nov. 16??) at 7 am. Traveled along the ocean the through the red woods. Saw the tallest tree, 364 ft. Went through the trees of Mystery Large Red

Woods and the little boys sawing wood. Traveled 253 miles arrived at Camp Scandia at 6:45, Nov. 16.

Left Camp Scandia Nov. 17 at 9 am. Traveled through about the same kind of country. Arrived at San Francisco at noon. Took 1 hour and 30 minutes to get through. After that we passed over the Golden Gate Bridge as we entered San Francisco. We went through some large vineyard, past several wineries and went through fine country with lots of gardens and vegetables. Then through sugar beet country. Lots of cattle feeding through this place. Then out in the desert. Saw several army bases through this place. Then into a valley again to the town of San Louis Obispo. Arrived at 7 pm, Nov. 17 after travelling 425 miles.

Left San Louis Obispo Nov. 18 at 7;30 am. About the same country to Los Angeles. Ran out of gas 2 miles from a filling station. Arrived at Ruth's at 2 pm after 225 miles. Total 2546 miles. At Ruth's 256 miles.

We left Ruth's at 9 am. It was raining hard until 2:15 pm, then sun shine. We came through lots of orange groves and vineyard, then through hilly country and then through 50 miles of desert. We then came through the Imperial Valley. This was a fine country, level as a floor. Raised lots of sugar beets and alfalfa hay. A little way further, they had lots of cattle. Then through 60 miles of desert with just cactus and small brush. Arrived at Yuma at 6 pm. Traveled 322 miles.

Left Yuma at 7 am, Dec 2. Raining 19 miles out of Yuma to the foot hills. Then it was all rock and desert. Cotton north to Gila Bend. Then we came to a small place in the valley where there was a nice farming place. Then we came to mountains and was in snow. Then down out of the snow but it was rocky with a few trees. Then, we hit snow again and arrived at the Grand Canyon at 7:30. Traveled 434 miles.

Left the Grand Canyon Dec. 3 at 4:30 pm and went to Cameron Arizona, 60 miles. Stayed all night. Saw the Little Gold Canyon on the way. Raining tonight.

Left Cameron Dec. 4 at 7am. Traveled through nothing but red rocky country. The ground was red and little hills all about with now and then an Indian hut, round with smoke coming out the center and an old wagon and a couple of old horsed tied to the wagon. After a ways we came to the Kaibab National Forest. It was very nice, the trees covered with snow. We went through the Zion National Park and long tunnel (1 1/10 mile) and then down to Panguitch, Utah, arriving at 5 pm. It was too far to the next place where we could stay all night. It stormed nearly all day with snow and rain. Traveled 422 miles.

Left Panguitch at 8, Dec. 5. Arrived at Hazel's at 8:15 pm Dec. 5. Traveled 450 miles. Total miles for round trip: 4923. Challis to Ruth's: 2546.
End Notes: *Saw the world's largest tree 364 ft., Nov. 16, 47. Signal Hill where the oil wells. Long Beach ships and oil wells and a resort place.*

Rosemond Nancy Smith | 1884-1947

Rosemond N. Smith was born on September 26, 1884 in New Troy, Michigan to parents Orlando N. Smith[131] and Rose Adell Weston-Smith. Orlando and Rose, who went by the nickname Della, were married on September 20, 1882 in Bridgeman, Michigan. At that time, Orlando was a blacksmith and had a shop in New Troy on the west side of the main street, just south of the old high school property. They probably lived initially with Orlando's parents, Samuel and Nancy Smith, on their farm near Kirktown, a small collection of houses located about half way between New Troy and Sawyer, Michigan. In about 1886, Orlando moved his family to the Dakota Territory where he purchased a homestead. A year or so later, they sold this property (May, 1887) and returned to Michigan. At right is a photo taken in Dakota Territory showing Rosemond with her parents.

On January 17, 1888, Orlando and Della had a second child, Grace. Unfortunately, Della became ill shortly after this birth and then died of "consumption" on November 9, 1889 in Three Oaks, Michigan. This must have been a very difficult period in Rosemond's life, being only 7 years old and probably asked to do the majority of the housework, etc. Her father, Orlando, having changed occupations twice before (blacksmith to homesteader), then changed again. The City Directory of Niles, Michigan for 1892 shows that he lived in Niles, and was photographer with a studio on Main Street. Several photos of Grace and Rosemond taken by him in about 1892 survive and are included in Orlando's biography later in this document.

Sometime between 1892 and 1898, Rosemond's father moved to Chicago and remarried. While his youngest daughter Grace accompanied him at least until 1902, family lore suggests that Rosemond lived with them only a short time. Rosemond was not happy in Chicago and returned to the New Troy area to live with her grandparents. She is shown in the 1900 census living with grandparents, Samuel and Nancy Smith, on their farm near Kirktown. It is also possible that she lived at times with her father's brother, Alonzo Smith, who was married and lived in the area. Alonzo had a daughter, Winifred Smith-Carpenter, who was one of Rosemond's lifelong friends. Throughout this period, Rosemond attended school at New Troy and graduated from the 10th grade in 1902. Her graduation photograph is shown below. As seen here, she was an attractive young woman.

[131] See companion biographies of Orlando N. Smith and Rose Adell Weston

Rosemond's father, Orlando, was probably not the biological child of Samuel and Nancy Smith. There are many indications that he was either formally or informally adopted by the Smiths. Orlando was born in Sheboygan, Wisconsin and, although there is no direct evidence, considerable circumstantial evidence indicates that his birth surname is Nehrlich. Alonzo, however, is believed to be the biological child of Samuel and Nancy.

After graduating from New Troy High School, Rosemond married Otis Clarence Wirth on June 3, 1903. Immediately after their marriage, they lived in a small house located on the east side of the road, about two blocks north of the intersection of Weechick and California Roads in New Troy. In about 1905, after the completion of the his father's farmhouse located about three miles south of New Troy, Otis and Rosemond moved to the Wirth farm. At that time, there were two families living in this two story farmhouse, the parents of Otis, John F. Wirth and his wife Rose Raven-Wirth, and Otis and Rosemond. The house was designed for two families, one living on each floor, with access to the top floor through both an internal staircase and an exterior stair

located at the east end of the house. Rosemond and Otis were relegated to the upper floor. However, this proved to be an unworkable arrangement because all fuel (wood or coal), water, ashes, food, washing, etc. had to be carried up and down the stairs. After trying this arrangement for a short time, it was decided to repartition the first floor into two living sections with John (who died in 1906, a year or so after the completion of the house) and Rose taking the west portion and Otis and Rosemond taking the east. A wood frame addition built by Alonzo Smith was then added to the farmhouse to provide a kitchen for Otis and Rosemond.

As added complexity, there were two other relatives living at different times at the Wirth farmhouse. Rosemond's father-in-law's mother, Mary Behner[132], returned from Ohio after the death of her fourth husband, Gottlieb F. Behner, in 1905 and lived in the west bedroom on the second floor until her death in 1912. In addition, Rose Raven-Wirth's mother had lost her second husband, William Wallace[133], in 1899. Family lore indicates that she also lived at the Wirth farmhouse on the west end of the second floor at times during the period from 1912 until her death in 1915. Added to this period of family confusion were the death of Rosemond's father-in-law John F. Wirth in 1906 and the disposition of his estate between his sons Otis and Herbert. Later, a neighbor boy, George Krembel, was taken in by Otis and Rosemond so that he could finish his education while his family moved to a new home[134]. The workload on Rosemond was very high during this period but she was known for her uncomplaining work ethic.

Rosemond's sister Grace[135] also returned to the New Troy area in the early 1900s and probably stayed with her grandparents as Rosemond had done earlier since their father appears to have moved to California in about 1908. In 1910, Grace married Henry Lee of Three Oaks, Michigan. Henry, a widower who worked at Warren Featherbone in Three Oaks, was much older than Grace. Rosemond was strongly opposed to this marriage and tried to talk Grace out of it. Grace and Henry had a daughter, Virginia, in 1913. Shortly thereafter, Grace became mentally unstable, perhaps due to post partum syndrome, and was committed to the State Mental Hospital in Kalamazoo, Michigan in 1914[136]. Rosemond took the train to visit Grace periodically until Grace no longer knew her or responded to her visits. Grace's daughter Virginia ultimately married Walter Yoder of Goshen, Indiana and had three children.

From a family dynamics viewpoint, this must have been an extraordinarily trying time for Rosemond. For the first decade of her marriage she was an outsider surrounded by in-laws and older relatives in the last years of their lives. Her father moved so far away that

[132] See biography of Anna Marie Roth
[133] See biography of William Wallace
[134] George Krembel was forever grateful to Otis and Rosemond. He visited the Wirth family periodically even after the death of Rosemond.
[135] See biograpohy of Grace Smith
[136] Grace Smith-Lee was committed on or about August 5, 1914. She remained at the hospital until her death on October 22, 1958. She died at the University of Michigan Hospital of pneumonia and may be buried there or in Kalmazoo. See companion biography for more details about Grace and Virginia.

visitation was impossible. Her only sister was mentally unstable and incommunicative. In addition, Otis and Rosemond were starting their own family.

Four children were born to Rosemond and Otis, but only two survived. Lois, who later married Everett Watson, was born on May 17, 1906. Another daughter, Leona was born on June 20, 1911, but died during a breech birth. A son, Clarence Wirth, was born on November 6, 1912. Finally, another son, Paul, was born on August 17, 1916. He lived only a short time, about six months, because he was unable to accept or digest food. Leona and Paul are buried in New Troy Cemetery. Rosemond's family in about 1918 is shown below.

Rosemond's social life was centered on her family, church group and a rural women's social group. Rosemond was a charter member of the Women's Country Club[137], a group of rural women formed in the 1920s. While the purpose of the group was mostly social, it was quite active, meeting once a month, and providing quilts and other necessities for needy people in the area and servicemen during WWII. The Women's Country Club was continually rejuvenated by the addition of descendants of the charter group and new members until it was finally disbanded in 2002 with Rosemond's daughter-in-law, Dorothy Wirth, the last active member.

Rosemond was also active in her church, the New Troy Community Church. She was a member of the Mizpah, a social group associated with the church. This church was demolished several decades ago to make room for school expansion and its members transferred to the present First Congregational Church of Sawyer, Michigan.

[137] See independent study of the Women's Country Club in a companion document.

Since her father moved from Chicago to California in the early 1900s, Rosemond's family interactions were with her parents relatives who lived in Bridgeman and New Troy, Michigan. Her best friends were Fern Baldwin-Wilson and Winifred Smith-Carpenter. Fern was a cousin, the daughter of Rosemond's mother's sister, Lucy Weston-Baldwin and Winifred was the daughter of her father's brother, Alonzo Smith.

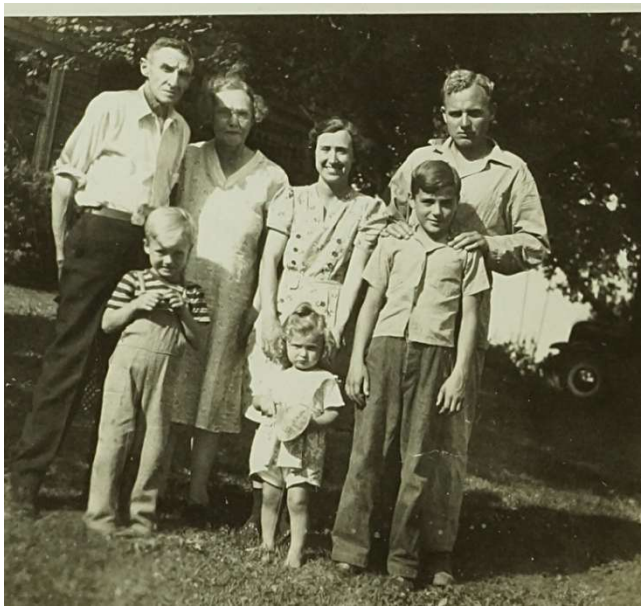
Life in the Wirth household was reportedly not always pleasant for Rosemond. After the death of her father-in-law in 1906, Otis and his mother Rose became a team, running the farm and making essentially all decisions with little if any discussion with Rosemond. Her mother-in-law, shown next to Rosemond in the adjacent photo, was reportedly very possessive, looking out of the window at the farm and intentionally saying within the clear earshot of Rosemond "all mine, now and for as long as I live." Rosemond is said to respond with resolve "It may be yours, but someone needs to mow the lawn and I will do it."

Money was also very tight in the late 1910s and 1920s. Otis and his mother made most of the financial decision without much regard for Rosemond's needs. To get the things she wanted, such as a new radio, appliance or even a buffet, she took in washing for the Principal of Schools at New Troy. She also did wall papering for neighboring families. In the mid 1920s, Berrien County was constructing stone/gravel roads (Mill Rd. and Warren Woods Rd.) past the Wirth farm. Rosemond provided room and board during week days for several workers whose home base was Plymouth, Indiana. All this was in addition to her household duties and helping with field and livestock work on the farm! She kept very close track of the money made in this way and spent it on the things she wanted.

After the death of her mother-in-law and the marriage of her son, Clarence, to Dorothy O'barton in 1933, Rosemond and Otis bought a small house in New Troy, Michigan. It was located immediately south of the present Brethren Church. Rosemond told Dorothy that given her experience in her early married life, there was not room enough in any home for two women. Even though Dorothy protested, Rosemond and Otis moved from the Wirth farmhouse to New Troy about two weeks after the marriage.

After they relocated to New Troy, Otis and occasionally Rosemond commuted from the New Troy to the farm most days to work with Clarence and Dorothy. Otis drove a 1931 Chevrolet purchased from his daughter and husband, Lois and Everett Watson. Otis helped with the farm work, and Rosemond helped with housework and took care of her grandchildren as they were added over the years. She would frequently put the children in a small wagon and the take them out to "see the bossy cows."

Rosemond seemed to shy away from the camera in her later years. She is usually seen in family group photos in the rear of the group with only her head appearing but one of the better photos taken in 1946 is shown below with Otis, Dorothy, Clarence and her grandchildren.



In the Mid-1940s, Rosemond began to have medical problems caused by high blood pressure. She had several strokes which left her incontinent and with an inability to always say what she wished to say. Finally, in the spring of 1947 she suffered a severe stroke and was brought to the farm where Dorothy could care for her. Rosemond passed away on April 10, 1947 and is buried in New Troy Cemetery. Her obituary and death certificate are shown below.

OBITUARY: April 10, 1947

New Troy, April 10, 1947 Mrs. Rosemond Wirth, 62, prominent New Troy Resident, died at 8:45 p.m. in the home of her son, Clarence, near New Troy where she was taken Sunday, after an extended illness. She was the wife of Otis Wirth, who survives her. Mrs. Wirth was a member of the Mizpah Society, the Women's Country Club and the New Troy Community Church. Daughter of the late Orlando Smith, she was born on Sept. 26, 1884, in New Troy. She lived here all of her life except for a short time spent in Chicago. Mrs. Wirth was married to Otis C. Wirth on June 3, 1903. She is survived by her husband; two children, Mrs. Everett Watson of Buchanan and Clarence Wirth of New Troy; four grand children; and a sister Grace Lee, Kalamazoo.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday in New Troy Community Church. The body is at Connelly Funeral Home in Three Oaks and will be taken to the Church at noon Saturday.

Certified Copy of Record of Death

STATE OF MICHIGAN, COUNTY OF BERRIEN, } ss. Record No. 394

Date of Death, Month April Day 4 Year 1947

Full Name of the Deceased Rosemond Wirth

Male or Female Female

Married, Single, Widow or Widower Married, Otis

White, Black, Mulatto, Etc. White

Age 62 Years 62 Months 6 Days 13

Place of Death Weesaw Twp, Michigan

Disease or Cause of Death Apoplexy

Birthplace New Troy, Michigan

Occupation Housewife

PARENTS

NAMES	BIRTHPLACES
Orlando Smith	unknown
unknown ~~Rest~~ Dell F. Weston	unknown

Date of Record 4-21-47 RECEIVED FOR RECORD 12-1-49 at 11:00AM

Catherine Weber.
Register of Deeds,
Berrien Co., Mich.

STATE OF MICHIGAN, COUNTY OF BERRIEN, } ss.

I, Beverly Whitcomb, Deputy, Clerk of the County of Berrien and of the Circuit Court thereof, the same being a Court of Record and having a seal, *Do Hereby Certify*, that I have compared the foregoing copy of Record of Death of Rosemond Wirth with the original Record of said Death now remaining in my office, and that the said copy is a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole of such original Record.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of said Circuit Court, this 30th day of November A. D. 1949.

Beverly Whitcomb
Deputy
County Clerk.

Grace Smith | 1888-1958

In chapter ORLANDO SMITH, it is indicated that Orlando and his wife Rose Adell Weston-Smith had two daughters, our grandmother Rosemond and a younger child Grace. Grace's story is complicated and tragic. About 11 years after she was born on January 17, 1888[138], her mother died. She lived with her father for a short time in Chicago, but apparently returned to the New Troy, Michigan, area to live with her grandparents Samuel and Nancy Smith. As in the case of our grandmother Rosemond, perhaps Grace did not get along with Orlando's second wife. When Grace came of age, she worked at the Warren Featherbone factory in Three Oaks, Michigan. It is there that she met her husband Henry Lee, a foreman at the factory. He was a widower with an adult daughter, and was much older than Grace. They had a daughter, Virginia, and things went from bad to worse from then on. We followed Virginia's and Grace's story out of curiosity and to apologize to their descendants for our family's poor response to Virginia's situation.

Several photos of Grace as a young girl are shown in chapter ORLANDO SMITH, one of which is repeated below. It shows Rosemond with Grace (on right) in about 1890 when Grace would have been about 1 or 2 years old. Since Grace is known to have lived with her father in Chicago in 1900, she undoubtedly went to school there and perhaps later in New Troy. We do not know where Orlando lived between his known times in Chicago (1898 – 1902) and when he arrived in California (circa 1908)[139].

Little is known about Grace's activities as a young adult. However, it is known that she ultimately worked at the Warren Featherbone factory in Three Oaks, MI. She is shown in a Lee family photo which is shown in the Appendix. A close-up of Henry and Grace taken from this photo is shown below. She is on the right side of this photo with a number 23 written on her image, numbers which were probably used to identify the various subjects. A complete identification of all of the subjects is shown in the Appendix. This photo and the identity of the subjects were supplied by Patricia Lee of Lakeside, MI, a relative of Henry.

[138] Date from death certificate in Appendix, but conflicts with 1900 census birth year of 1887.
[139] See chapter ORLANDO SMITH for reference.

As seen in the adjacent photo, Grace was an attractive young woman, much like her sister. He husband, Henry, shown on the left of this photo, was much older and had an adult daughter by a prior marriage.

Grace and Henry were married on July 28, 1910[140]. Her being included in this family photo suggests that she was married at the time it was taken, making the photo's date about 1910 or 1911.

Our grandmother Rosemond was deeply opposed to this marriage. She commented to our mother Dorothy that "Henry was old enough to be her father." The tone of family lore about this marriage indicates that Otis and Rosemond basically washed their hands of the whole affair. Henry was born in about 1856[141] and was 30+ years older than Grace.

Grace gave birth to their daughter, Virginia, on or about June 4, 1912[142]. Somehow, Grace was unable to cope with a newborn and began to behave erratically. Family lore indicates that she would begin screaming, take off her clothes and run into the street. Finally, in August 5, 1914 she was institutionalized in Kalamazoo State Hospital at Kalamazoo, MI[143]. Our grandmother Rosemond visited Grace numerous times in the early years, but stopped after Grace could no longer recognize her. Grace stayed at the hospital for 44 years, 2 months and 17 days before she died of pneumonia at the Kalamazoo State Hospital on October 22, 1958[144]. Her body was then removed to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI, suggesting that it might have been used for research or medical student training. When she died, our parents Dorothy and Clarence were notified (Rosemond had died previously) and may have tried to contacted Virginia. In a ledger kept by Rosemond, there is the following address:

Mrs. Walter Yoder
Corner of Oak Ridge & 2nd Street
% James Bolan
Goshen, Indiana

[140] Three Oaks Acorn record of marriage.
[141] 1900 census of Three Oaks, Berrien Co., MI
[142] Birth and death dates provided by Janet Shoemaker from Elkhart County cemetery records.
[143] Date calculated from death certificate data.
[144] See death certificate.

Virginia's life must have been difficult for many years. It is hard to know what life was like as an infant with her mother becoming more and more unstable. Even though her father was reportedly kind to her, after her mother was institutionalized he had difficulty caring for her. She and her father moved in with his adult daughter Margaret and are shown living with them in 1920[145] when Virginia was about 8. For some reason that did not work out and it was decided that she could not stay there. Finally, an arrangement was made for Virginia to live with the Dunham family in Sawyer, MI. She is shown living there at age 18 in the 1930 census. She had probably been living with the Dunham's for several years by 1930 since our mother Dorothy remembered her being enrolled in the Sawyer public school in about 1926. The locals felt sorry for Virginia since she was basically working as a domestic in the Dunham household in order to earn her keep. Dorothy remembered that Virginia did all the housework and the Dunham children did little or nothing.

A phone conversation between our mother Dorothy and Lucille Dunham in 2001 indicated that sometime after 1930 Virginia moved to Goshen, IN to live with Lucille's older sister Bella Dunham-Worthington. There, Virginia met her husband Walter Yoder[146].

Virginia and Walter had two children Marilyn (Linda?) and Jerry. In the 1940 census[147], Walter is shown as a milk delivery man for City Dairy, and Virginia was pumping gas at a local filling station. Marilyn is shown as age 5 and Jerry as age 3, making their birth years 1935 and 1937.

Virginia and Walter retired in about 1975 and moved to Florida. Walter passed away there in 1977 according to his obituary found in the Appendix. He was born on April 12, 1913 and died on April 17, 1977. His social security number is 308-05-5053[148]. He and Virginia are buried in Oakridge Cemetery in Bristol, IN. Virginia died on September 4, 1986[149]. Her obituary has not been found.

Both Marilyn (Linda) and Jerry married and had children. Linda was tracked down in New York based upon information in Walter's obituary. She had divorced[150] and retained her maiden name Yoder. She was living at 167 West 80th St., Apt. 1C, New York, NY 10024-7116. Her phone number was 212-362-5395. The author had two phone conversations with her but thereafter she did not take calls at that number.

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[145] 1920 census of Benton Harbor, MI

[146] Yoder genealogy shows Walter's parents Archie and Mabel nee Rogers as code YR2338372 according to Chris Yoder who runs a Newsletter in Goshen. They are Amish, not Mennonite. Their linage is traced many generations.

[147] 1940 census of Goshen, IN

[148] Social Security Death Index.

[149] Birth and death dates provided by Janet Shoemaker from Elkhart County cemetery records.

[150] Linda's married name may have been Bolan, based upon the address for Virginia shown on page 2 above.

To a question about any contact between her family and ours, Linda indicated that once, when she was very young, she and her parents traveled a long way to visit her "aunt." When they arrived, she and her mother stayed in the car while her father went to the house. He came back in a short while and said that they should not go in there. She had the feeling that there was a "black person" in the home and that was repugnant to her father. The only connection I can make with those comments is that one of the Lee brothers had married a Native American woman who had a very dark complexion. It is possible that they visited Otis and Rosemond, and Otis, thinking they were after money or something, was not receptive to their visit.

Linda also indicated that her brother Jerry lived at the "Hermitage" which I assume was the home of President Andrew Jackson. The author was not able to find Jerry through phone searches of the area. Linda did not seem very interested in genealogy and did not give her married name or the names of her or Jerry's children. Although records documenting Linda and Jerry's ancestors on the Smith side were sent to Linda, there was no further contact.

APPENDIX

Walter C. Yoder Obituary

Walter C. Yoder, 64, 204 Aloha Drive, Palmetto, FL, a former Goshen resident, was dead on arrival at 11 p.m. Sunday at Manistee Memorial Hospital, Bradenton, FL.

A Goshen native, Mr. Yoder was born April 12, 1913. He was a long-time route man for the City Dairy here and then worked for Richmond Wholesale Co. Mr. Yoder was an avid bowler. He and his wife, Virginia, have lived in Florida the past two years.

Surviving with Mrs. Yoder are a son, Jerry, San Jose, CA; a daughter, Miss Linda Yoder, New York City; eight grandchildren; and two sisters, Mrs. Charles (Mary) Bailey, Elkhart and Mrs. Vernon (Kathryn) Cripe, Goshen. He was a son of Archie and Mabel (Bogir) Yoder.

The body will be returned to Goshen to the Yoder-Culp Funeral Home. Mrs. Yoder will be driving home from Florida with friends. Arrangements for the funeral and burial are pending.

Funerals

Walter C. Yoder

A funeral time has not been set for Walter C. Yoder, 64, 204 Aloha Drive, Palmetto, FL who died April 17, but friends will be received at the Yoder-Culp Funeral Home after 2 p.m. Thursday. Burial will be in Oakridge Cemetery, Bristol.

Lee Family Photo circa 1910

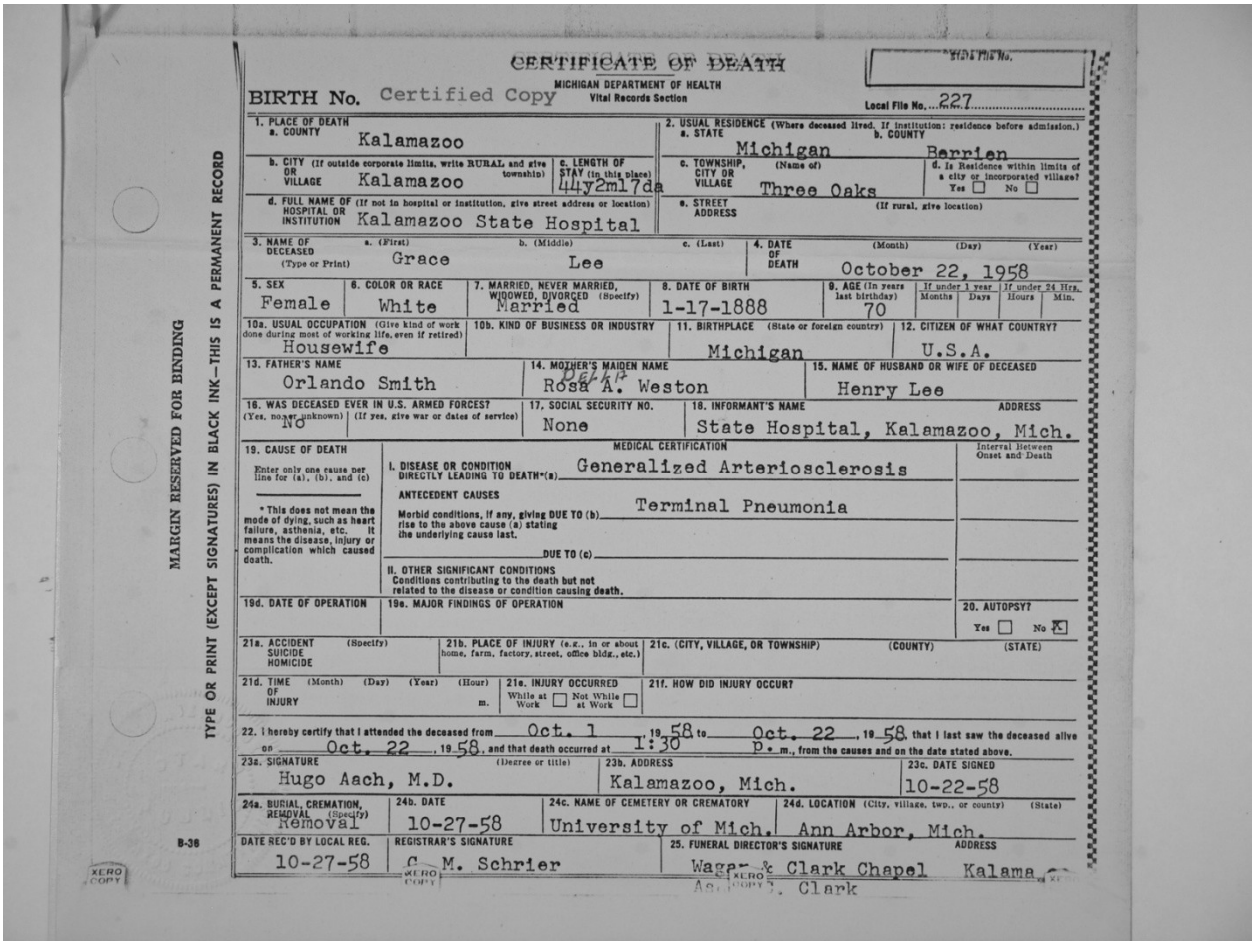
Row 1 (children) – Edward Collins (cousin), Eldon Lee (son of Frank), Ken Collins (cousin – Perham), Gerald Perham, Eva (Hasse) Akins, Beatrice Lee (daughter of Frank), Norman Lee (son of James), Lowell Lee (son of James), Fern Akins

Row 2 (Adults) - Adah (Fisher) Lee (wife of Frank) & Trixie (dog), Joseph Lee (son of George) , Reverend Chase (Methodist Mnister), Grandma Perham, Gene Perham, Anna (Lee) Perham (sister of James), Hattie (Lee) Turner (sister of James), Frank Lee (son of Joseph), James Ellis Lee, Alta Catherine (Perham) "Kit" Lee, Carrie (Perham) Akins.

Row 3 – Tony Perham, Etta Perham, Nel Collins, Hank Lee, Ruth (Lee) Heward (daughter of Joseph), Grace Lee (wife of Hank), Wave Collins, Forrest Lee (son of Jim), Simon Collins, Vera Collins (Baby), John Akins (Carrie's husband), Clarence Perham.

Row 4 – Fred Warner (perhaps a boarder), Earl Lee (son of James), Ernie Behler, Orin Lee (son of James), Bert Chase (minister's son), Lester Lee (son of Joseph), Unknown (perhaps a boarder), Unknown (perhaps a boarder), Sarah Ann Lee (bonnet lady), Eva "toot" (Perham) King, Dan King, Adah Perham.

Row 5 – Harry Schwartz, Frances (Perham) Schwartz



CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Vital Records Section

BIRTH No. Certified Copy

Local File No. 227

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING — TYPE OR PRINT (EXCEPT SIGNATURES) IN BLACK INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD

1. PLACE OF DEATH
a. COUNTY: Kalamazoo
b. CITY OR VILLAGE (If outside corporate limits, write RURAL and give township): Kalamazoo
c. LENGTH OF STAY (in this place): 44y2m17da
d. FULL NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION (If not in hospital or institution, give street address or location): Kalamazoo State Hospital

2. USUAL RESIDENCE (Where deceased lived. If institution: residence before admission.)
a. STATE: Michigan
b. COUNTY: Berrien
c. TOWNSHIP, CITY OR VILLAGE (Name of): Three Oaks
d. Is Residence within limits of a city or incorporated village? Yes ☐ No ☐
e. STREET ADDRESS (If rural, give location):

3. NAME OF DECEASED (Type or Print): a. (First) Grace; b. (Middle) Lee; c. (Last)
4. DATE OF DEATH: October 22, 1958

5. SEX: Female
6. COLOR OR RACE: White
7. MARRIED, NEVER MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED (Specify): Married
8. DATE OF BIRTH: 1-17-1888
9. AGE (In years last birthday): 70 — If under 1 year: Months; If under 24 Hrs.: Days, Hours, Min.

10a. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life, even if retired): Housewife
10b. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY:
11. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country): Michigan
12. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY?: U.S.A.

13. FATHER'S NAME: Orlando Smith
14. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME: Rosa A. Weston (Welch)
15. NAME OF HUSBAND OR WIFE OF DECEASED: Henry Lee

16. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? (Yes, no or unknown): No (If yes, give war or dates of service):
17. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.: None
18. INFORMANT'S NAME: State Hospital, Kalamazoo, Mich. ADDRESS:

19. CAUSE OF DEATH
Enter only one cause per line for (a), (b), and (c)
* This does not mean the mode of dying, such as heart failure, asthenia, etc. It means the disease, injury or complication which caused death.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATION
I. DISEASE OR CONDITION DIRECTLY LEADING TO DEATH* (a): Generalized Arteriosclerosis — Interval Between Onset and Death:
ANTECEDENT CAUSES
Morbid conditions, if any, giving DUE TO (b): Terminal Pneumonia
DUE TO (c):
II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS
Conditions contributing to the death but not related to the disease or condition causing death.

19d. DATE OF OPERATION:
19e. MAJOR FINDINGS OF OPERATION:
20. AUTOPSY? Yes ☐ No ☒

21a. ACCIDENT SUICIDE HOMICIDE (Specify):
21b. PLACE OF INJURY (e.g., in or about home, farm, factory, street, office bldg., etc.):
21c. (CITY, VILLAGE, OR TOWNSHIP) (COUNTY) (STATE):
21d. TIME OF INJURY (Month) (Day) (Year) (Hour) m.:
21e. INJURY OCCURRED While at Work ☐ Not While at Work ☐:
21f. HOW DID INJURY OCCUR?

22. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from Oct. 1, 19 58 to Oct. 22, 19 58 that I last saw the deceased alive on Oct. 22, 19 58, and that death occurred at 1:30 p. m., from the causes and on the date stated above.

23a. SIGNATURE (Degree or title): Hugo Aach, M.D.
23b. ADDRESS: Kalamazoo, Mich.
23c. DATE SIGNED: 10-22-58

24a. BURIAL, CREMATION, REMOVAL (Specify): Removal
24b. DATE: 10-27-58
24c. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY: University of Mich.
24d. LOCATION (City, village, twp., or county) (State): Ann Arbor, Mich.

DATE REC'D BY LOCAL REG.: 10-27-58
REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE: C. M. Schrier
25. FUNERAL DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE: Wagner & Clark Chapel
ADDRESS: Kalama[illegible]
Asst. [illegible]. Clark

B-36

XERO COPY

GRACE SMITH-LEE DEATH CERTIFICATE

THE WESTON-WIRTH CONNECTION

J.L. Wirth
1463 Bluebell Dr. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87122
505-856-1536
jwirth1463@aol.com

Forward and Acknowledgments

The Weston surname in the United States dates from the very early settlement of Salem, MA, Plymouth, MA and possibly other early towns. This note is a summary of the Weston lineage associated with the Wirth family history. It was made possible by the contributions of many people. Most notable, however, was excerpts from a family history given to Dorothy and Clarence Wirth by Ronald Wilson in 1984. This history appears to have been written initially by Mary Weston-Green in about 1842, updated by Flora Weston-Morgan in about 1930 and then typed from the updated original and distributed by Ronald Wilson to his family at a gathering in the 1980's. The excerpts available to this author are not complete, however, and additional research was undertaken to fill in the gaps. This research was aided greatly by generous support from genealogy experts at several locations marking the Weston's migration from Salem to southwestern Michigan. Ms. Judy Haven of the Onondaga Historical Association was extremely helpful in providing information about the family's activities in the Pompey area of New York as was Ms. Barbara Rivetta, the historian of the town of Manlius, and Ms. Sylvia Shoebridge, the historian for the town of Pompey. Mr. Richard Shuldiner, Reference Librarian of the Brooks Memorial Library at Brattleboro, VT, provided copies of the 1771 census as well as historical information from the Springfield area, and Ms. Laurel Toole of the Wilmington Memorial Library provided copies of the birth and marriage records from that area. Thanks to all.

Introduction

The Weston[151] surname in the USA originated, at least in part, with the arrival of John Weston in 1644 in Salem, MA. While the status of the Weston family when they first arrived is not clear, it would appear that John became somewhat prominent in the church and in public affairs as he is mentioned in several historical documents and even his signature has been preserved. He moved his growing family from Salem to Reading, MA in the latter part of the 1600s and was apparently instrumental in church and public affairs there as well, being one of four men who laid out a road linking Salem and Reading. His son and grandson, both named Stephen, continued the line with the grandson designated as a deacon in the church at nearby Wilmington, MA. The next in line, Nathaniel, was a pioneer settler in Springfield, VT, probably moving there in the mid-1760s and was possibly involved in the Revolutionary War. Nathaniel next moved to Pompey, NY, near Syracuse, in 1795. Here, his son Nathan, his grandson Daniel and great grandson Franklin were born. After the death of Daniel, his widow moved Franklin and the rest of the family to her parents location in Reynales Basin, NY, near Niagara. After the birth of his children in this area, Franklin then moved his family, including daughter Rose Adell, to Burr Oak, St. Joseph, MI, in 1864. Later, they moved to the town now known as Bridgeman in Berrien Co., MI where Rose Adell (Della) met and married Orlando N. Smith. The Smiths had two daughters before Della's untimely death, including Rosemond Nancy Smith. Rosemond ultimately married Otis C. Wirth and had four children, two dying in infancy. One of the surviving children, Clarence, married Dorothy O'Barton. Clarence and Dorothy are the parents of the Wirth Siblings considered here.

This note provides more details of the Weston-Wirth lineage from the present back to John Weston. While an attempt has been made to document every step in the chain, a few rough spots remain that need further work. These uncertainties are discussed so that the author and others might someday be able to more fully document each generation.

The Wirth Siblings referred to here consists of: Rick Clarence Wirth (b. 12/17/1955, d. 8/9/1996), Gary Ray Wirth (b. 10/12/1953), Carol Sue Wirth-Metz (b. 12/27/43, d. 12/24/1972), Guy Barry Wirth (b. 12/25/40), and John Lyle Wirth (b. 8/30/35).

[151] The Weston name is referred to alternatively as Wesson in much of the early history. In fact, this early version may be the original spelling. Apparently, it was changed to Weston because it was pronounced that way. There is also another Weston family which seems to originate in Plymouth, MA. The relationship between these families is not known.

The lineage summarized above is shown in the ancestor chart below:

WIRTH SIBLINGS

CLARENCE JOHN WIRTH

ROSEMOND NANCY SMITH-WIRTH

ROSE ADELL WESTON-SMITH

FRANKLIN WESTON

DANIEL WESTON

NATHAN WESTON

NATHANIEL WESTON

STEPHEN WESTON

STEPHEN WESTON

JOHN WESTON

However, before discussing each generation, the family history written by earlier Westons is reviewed because it provides a road map, albeit incomplete, which was used as a starting point by the present author. This history appears to have been written first in about 1842 by Mary Weston-Green, a daughter of Nathan Weston. It was updated later by Mary, then again in about 1930 by Flora Weston-Morgan, a daughter of Franklin Weston and finally typed for distribution to his family by Ronald Wilson in about 1980. Mr. Wilson is also a descendant of a daughter of Franklin Weston, Lucy Weston-Baldwin. The following is a portion of that history[152] which summarizes the family ties:

> *John Weston(Generation 1) came to Salem Mass. from Buckinghamshire in the West of England in May, 1644 when he was 13 years of age. Later, he lived in Maine. He had four sons; John, Samuel, Stephen and Thomas. Our line is descendant from Stephen. Thus, Stephen (Gen. 2), third son of John . Stephen lived in Mass. part of his life and died in Freeport,*

[152] Weston Family History by Mary Weston-Green, daughter of Nathan Weston

Cumberland Co. Maine. (Aunt Mary's nephew.)[153] *(*Note by the typist, Ronald Wilson. One or more likely two generations omitted here) *Nathan (3), born Sept. 25, 1761, died Sept. 1828. Moved to Maine., Later to Pompey, N.Y. in 1815. Father of Aunt Mary. Daniel (4), father of Franklin, Addison, Emaline and Camilla. Franklin (5), father of Charles, Flora, Lucy, George, Della, and Nathan. Nathan(6) was born July 4, 1861. Father of Walter, Lillian and Harold. (Walter died unmarried) Harold Franklin, born Sept. 9, 1897, father of David Nathan and Donald Leslie. David Nathan, father of David Lawrence and Daniel Lee. (The above three lines were added by Harold F. Wilson)*

The genealogy as I have it was given me by Aunt Amanda Weston, second wife of Addison Weston, who copied it from the original made by Aunt Mary C. Weston Green of Ohio, who was the daughter of the Nathan first named in the above list. She was a sister of Daniel, therefore, aunt of Franklin my father. Signed by Flora Weston-Morgan.

The present research seems to verify the lineage mentioned in this history, but there is clearly a gap of a hundred or so years which had to be filled. In addition, some of the statements could not be verified. For example, census information indicates that Nathan Weston was in the Pompey, NY area in 1800, 1810 and 1820. While he may have moved to Maine and returned in 1815, no record of this move has been found. The birth date of Nathan is somewhat in question also because of a conflict with 1810 census age band information. The place of death of "Stephen" is also questioned by this work.

In the generation discussions which follow, the first two are truncated because they are covered more extensively in other notes.

Clarence John Wirth and Dorothy O'Barton-Wirth[154]:

[153] This a puzzling remark for this position in a family tree. There is a Stephen Weston listed in the 1790 census of Cumberland Co., ME. This Stephen might be a son of Nathaniel and therefore an *uncle* of Mary Weston-Green rather than a nephew. This is pure speculation. Stephen was a popular given name in these times and there are a half dozen or so Stephen Westons listed in the 1790 census of various states.
[154] Information contained in this section is based upon personal communication from Mrs. Dorothy O'Barton-Wirth and personal knowledge of the author.

Clarence and Dorothy were married on July 29, 1933 in Buchanan, MI, at the home of his sister Lois Watson. They met while attending New Troy High School and were drawn together by the romance between their respective best friends, Phil Sexton and Vera Spaulding. After their marriage, they assumed ownership of the family farm located about three miles directly south of New Troy, MI. They are the parents of the Wirth Siblings mentioned above.

Clarence Wirth was born on November 4, 1912 and died on November 13, 1984. He is buried in the New Troy Cemetery, New Troy, MI. Dorothy was born on November 10, 1911 and, at the time this note is written, lives on the family farm near New Troy.

Rosemond Nancy Smith-Wirth and Otis Clarence Wirth[155]:

Otis Clarence Wirth was born on March 6, 1883, the second of two children born to John Franklin Wirth and Rose Elizabeth Raven-Wirth. He and his older brother Herbert (b. 1/6/1878, d. ?) were born and raised on a farm located three miles south of New Troy, MI. Until about 1900, they lived in a log cabin with beds in a loft area where, in the winter, snow would seep through onto their beds at night. Otis went to grade school in a small country school, Elm Valley, located a mile or so away. He then went to high school in New Troy, where he met Rosemond. She was living at the time with her grand parents at their home in Kirt Town, a small gathering of houses only a mile NW of New Troy. After their marriage on June 3, 1903, they lived in a small house in New Troy. After the completion of a new farm house in 1905, they moved in with Otis' parents, occupying the upper floor of the new two-story Midwest farm house. Otis father died in 1906 and, after settling the estate with his brother Herbert, Otis and his mother became the principal owners of the farm. Otis and Rosemond continued life on the farm until the marriage of their son, Clarence, at which time Clarence took over the farm duties, assisted almost daily by Otis who commuted from his home in nearby New Troy.

Rosemond and Otis had four children: Lois Wirth-Watson (b. 5/17/1906, d. 1962), Leona Wirth (stillborn 6/20/1911), Clarence John Wirth (b. 11/4/1912, d. 11/13/1984), and Paul (b. about 2/1916, d. 8/17/1916). Leona was stillborn and

[155] Information contained in this section is based upon Wirth family records, personal communication from Mrs. Dorothy Wirth, etc.

Paul lived about 6 months, passing away because of an eating disorder. Lois and Clarence went to elementary school at the Elm Valley country school, located a mile or so away from the farm. Lois then went on to high school in nearby Three Oaks, while Clarence went to New Troy High School. Lois married Everett Watson (b. 1904, d. 1989) and lived in Buchanan, MI, until her death from breast cancer. She had an adopted son, Gene Watson.

Rosemond died on April 4, 1947, after a series of strokes brought on by chronic high blood pressure. She is buried in New Troy Cemetery with Otis.

After Rosemond's death, Otis remarried Evelyn Wire on May 31, 1950. Evelyn was a spinster school teacher who taught in New Troy and was a teacher while the author attended this school. Otis passed away on February 18, 1958 after a long illness associated with arterial sclerosis.

Rose Adell Weston-Smith and Orlando N. Smith:

Rose Adell (Della) Weston and Orlando Smith were married in Bridgeman, MI, on September 20, 1882. Their fathers, Franklin F. Weston and Samuel R. Smith were the witnesses and P. B. Passy was the clergyman[156].

Orlando N. Smith was born on June 16, 1856 in Sheboygan, WI[157]. There is some question about his birth surname, however, since his death certificate[158] indicates that his father's name may have been Nehrlich and there is some additional corroborating evidence to support the Nehrlich name. He appears in the 1870 Federal census of Weesaw Twp., Berrien County, MI, living with the Smith family in New Troy, MI. His early occupation was as a blacksmith in the New Troy area[159]. Later, he speculated in land in Dakota Territory (about 1886)[160], and then became a photographer. After his wife died in 1889, he lived in Niles, MI and ran a photography shop for a period of time[161]. He then moved to Chicago sometime before 1900 and married a second time[162]. He then moved to California in about 1908[163], appearing first in the 1911 directory of Oakland, CA, and apparently occupied as an insurance salesman. He appears in the 1920 Federal

[156] Marriage Records, Berrien County, MI, Page 96.
[157] Death Certificate # 946, Alameda Co., CA and Marriage Records of Berrien Co., MI, Page 96.
[158] Ibid.
[159] Marriage record of Berrien County, MI, dated September 20, 1882.
[160] Signed photo of Orlando, Della and Rosemond, dated 1886.
[161] Engraved photo taken by Smith in his studio in Niles and Niles telephone book, dated 1892.
[162] Personal communication from Dorothy Wirth
[163] Death Certificate.

census of Alameda Co., CA. His second wife (Anna L.) died in about 1924 and he then married for the third time to a lady named Nora. He died on April 6, 1930[164] and is buried in the Evergreen Cemetery, Garden of Peace section, Space 43, Row 6 in an unmarked grave[165]. This cemetery is in Oakland, CA.

Della was born on February 8, 1859 in Reynales Falls, NY as indicated in the next section. Little is known about her life at this point except that she moved with her family from NY to MI as discussed below. She died on November 9, 1889[166] at the young age of 30 years and is buried in New Troy Cemetery, New Troy, MI.

Della and Orlando had two children: Rosemond Nancy Smith (b. 9/26/1884, d. 4/4/1947) and Grace Smith (b. 1/17/1888, d.10/22/1958). Grace, in particular, led a troubled life. In opposition to the judgment of her sister Rosemond, she married a much older Henry Lee of Three Oaks, MI, on July 28, 1910[167]. He was 47 at the time and she was only 22. Their only child, Virginia, was born on about June 4, 1912[168]. Shortly thereafter, Grace became very unstable and was finally committed to Kalmazoo State Hospital on August 5, 1914. She died of pneumonia in the University of Michigan Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI, on October 22, 1958 and is believed to be buried there. Her daughter, Virginia, married Walter C. Yoder of Goshen, IN died on September 4, 1986 and is buried in Oakridge Cemetery in Bristol, IN[169],[170].

After her father moved to Chicago, Rosemond returned to live in the New Troy area with her paternal grandparents Samuel and Nancy Smith. She graduated from the 10th grade in New Troy High School and later married Otis C. Wirth on June 3, 1903. They moved to the Wirth farm and lived with Otis' parents, with Otis helping on the farm and Rosemond busily doing both farm and household chores[171].

Franklin Weston and Rosemond Burdick-Weston:

[164] Death Certificate.
[165] Letter from Evergreen Cemetery.
[166] Family ledger by Rose E. Wirth.
[167] Three Oaks Acorn, dated ?
[168] Three Oaks Acorn, dated June 6, 1912.
[169] Death information for Virginia Lee-Yoder from Janet S. Shoemaker, Mennonite Hist. Library.
[170] Information in this paragraph from Wirth family records unless otherwise noted.
[171] Ibid.

Franklin Weston was born in 1825 in Pompey, NY, although there is some uncertainty in this date as described in the next section. When he was about 20 years old, his widowed mother moved the family from Pompey to her father's home in Reynales Falls, Royalton Township, Niagara Co., NY. He returned to the Pompey/Manlius area later and married Miss Rosemond Marvin Burdick of Manlius on October 10, 1849. They returned to the Reynales Falls and there raised a family of six children: Charles Daniel (b. 9/6/1850, d 11/16/1867), Flora Elizabeth Weston-Morgan (b. 8/18/1852, d. 1940), Lucy Emeline Weston-Baldwin[172] (b. 4/12/1854, d. 1/3/1925), George Franklin (b. 6/24/1857, d. ?), Rose Adell Weston-Smith (b. 2/8/1859, d. 11/9/1889), Nathan William (b. 7/4/1861, d. 9/25/1936)[173].

In September, 1864, Franklin moved his family and his mother, Lucy, from Reynales Falls to Burr Oak, St. Joseph County, MI, probably because the Erie Canal cut right through the center of their farm. Then, in 1867, they moved to what is now known as the town of Bridgeman, MI located in Berrien County[174].

Franklin is believed to have died in 1885 and Rosemond died on September 15, 1907. Franklin's place of burial is not known at this time, but Rosemond is buried in Buchanan cemetery.

Daniel Weston and Lucy Ketchum-Weston:

Information on Daniel's tombstone located in the Ketchum or Hibbard Cemetery located NNE of Indian Hill (POM Lot 9) indicates that he was born on July21, 1792 and died on February 26, 1843 at the age of 50 years, 7 months and 5 days[175]. He is referred to as Dr., presumably a medical doctor, both on his tombstone and in several other references.

Daniel Weston married Lucy Ketchum on or about January 30, 1822 as recorded in the Onondaga County Republican[176] and later in the Onondaga Register[177]. They had at least four children: Franklin (b. about 1825), Addison (b. about 1828), Emaline (b. about 1830), and Camilla (b. about 1833). There is some discrepancy about the birth date of

[172] Ronald Wilson, from whom the author obtained the Weston Family History, is a descendant of Lucy Weston.
[173] Information in this paragraph is from notes in the Weston Family History, probably entered by Ronald Weston, the last typist.
[174] Ibid.
[175] Data from a letter from H. C. Durston to Miss Jesse M. Hutchins which quotes tombstone inscriptions as follows: Dr. Daniel Weston, d. Feb.26, 1843 aged 50 years, 7 months, 5 days. Camilla L. Youngest daughter of Daniel and Lucy Weston. d. September 9, 1845, aged 12.
[176] Onondaga County Republican, January 30, 1822.
[177] Onondaga Register, February 6, 1822, P.3 C.3

Franklin, which is shown in two different places in the Weston Family History as being 1825 and April 4, 1830[178]. However, the 1850 Federal Census shows Franklin's age as 25, lending support a birth year of 1825.

A few years after Daniel's death in 1843 and the death of their youngest daughter Camilla in 1845, widow Lucy Ketchum-Weston moved the remaining three children and herself to the home of her father, Mr. David Ketchum, located in Reynales Basin, Royalton Township, Niagara County, NY.[179] Lucy, her three children, Franklin's wife Rosemond, and Lucy's father David (then age 82) are shown in the 1850 Federal Census of Niagara County (page 224) with Franklin and Addison designated as farmers.

Addison Weston apparently returned to the Syracuse area after reaching maturity and then moved to the Bridgeman, MI, area in about 1880[180]

Nathan Weston and Hannah (?)-Weston:

Nathan Weston was born on September 25, 1761[181], probably in Vermont and moved to Pompey, NY, with his family sometime between 1795 and 1800 as indicated by the biography of his brother[182] and the 1800 census which shows him as a head of household in Pompey. His marriage to Hannah is not documented and she may not be his first and only wife.

He had at least eight children according to the Weston Family History[183] referenced above as follows: Daniel (b. July 21, 1792), Phoebe, William, Betsey, Esther, Rebecca, Sarah and Mary, the latter being the first author of the family history. According to this history, Phoebe married Ephriam S. Brown on July 3, 1828[184] and died on December 25, 1843 at age 31. William married Rachel Runnels on July 10, 1845 and had a son Nathan. William, Rachel, and Nathan, along with Betsey and Ester, moved to Lake Township, Berrien County Michigan. Ester was unmarried at the time the history was written. Nathan Pratt (son of Betsey??) was born August 22, 1831. Harriet Sophia Jones (b. April;

[178] Weston Family History by Mary Weston-Green in a section whose author is unknown, but may be Ronald Wilson.
[179] Weston Family History by Mary Weston-Green as annotated by Flora Weston-Morgan. This location appears to be just east of the present city of Lockport, NY.
[180] Weston Family History by Mary Weston-Green as annotated by Flora Weston-Morgan.
[181] Weston Family History written by Mary Weston-Green
[182] It is somewhat of a leap of faith that Nathan and Elijah were brothers and Nathan was the son of Nathaniel Weston. However, they arrived in the same area at about the same time and had appropriate ages as indicated by the census of 1800, 1810 and 1820.
[183] Weston Family History written by Mary Weston-Green
[184] Onondaga Register, July 23, 1828, P.3 C.3

15. 1830) and Mary Esther Jones (b. December 7, 1833) are daughters of Rebecca Weston-Jones. Sarah Weston was unmarried when she died February 8, 1847 in IL. Mary Weston went to Ohio in 1845 and March 3, 1845 married Isaac Green and lived in Caseo, Richland County, Ohio[185].

When he died in September, 1828[186], Nathan Weston left a will[187] as follows:

> *NATHAN WESTON of the town of Pompey and county of Onondaga - Unto wife, Hannah Weston, all the land in the town of Marcellus on lot ninety-eight that she has a deed for and also the sum of twenty-one dollars a year to be paid by my heirs, executors or administrators so long as she remains my widow, providing that Hannah, at a suitable time, should return to her former house that she occupied previous to my marrying her. I value my property at about four hundred dollars and the use, or rather, the interest of three hundred dollars, which is the twenty-one dollars as above stated, I bequeath to Hannah, so long as she remains my widow, but should she again marry then from the day of her marriage until the day of her death, I will to her nine dollars and thirty-three cents in cash to be paid every year*
>
> *Executor: Son, Daniel Weston*
>
> *Written: 14 September, 1828*
>
> *Witnesses: Warren Scranton, Selden Jones, H. B. Moore*
>
> *Proven: 8 December, 1828.*

The wording of this will suggests that Hannah may not have been his first wife since she had a prior house to which to return, possibly left by a prior husband or family. Further, his son Daniel was born in 1792 before the family left VT, implying that his wife must have been from the VT or surrounding area and would not likely have owned a house in the Pompey area independent of the Weston family.

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[185] Weston Family History written by Mary Weston-Green
[186] Ibid.
[187] Onondaga County, NY Wills, Volume II, Page 44

Nathan served in the War of 1812 as a Private in Captain John Sprague's Company, stationed at Oswego, under Lt. Col. George Fleming.[188]

Nathaniel Weston and Molly Upton-Weston

Nathaniel Weston, born on November 3, 1737, in Wilmington, MA, married Molly Upton of Reading, MA on April 23, 1761 in Reading, MA[189]. It is believed, but there is no concrete proof as yet, that they moved from the Wilmington/Reading area of MA to Springfield, VT shortly after their marriage. Evidence for the linkage between the Nathaniel Weston of Springfield, VT, found in the census of 1771 and 1790, and the Nathaniel Weston born in Wilmington is substantial but not as complete as one might like. However, the family history written in about 1842 by Mary Weston-Green, the match between the birth date and the age of Nathaniel at his death, the linkage between Pompey, NY, and VT provided by the biography of son Elijah, and their common name suggest strongly that they are the same person.

There is little question that Nathaniel Weston lived in the Springfield, VT, area. In "The History of the Town of Springfield[190]" it says:

> *"The fertility of the soil and accessibility by the Crown Point Road attracted settlers to Eureka at an early day. Lieut Hezekiah Holmes, who settled on the Curtis place, afterwards for more than a century the Hubbard farm, was one of the pioneers, located here about 1772. Captain Simon Stevens, who settled at the town farm, Captain George Hubbard on the Curtis farm and* ***Nathaniel Weston*** *on the Asahel P. Fairbanks farm, a little farther south, were prominent and influential in town affairs, and much respected for their good judgment and integrity."*
>
> *"****Nathaniel Weston's*** *house was below where Asahel Fairbanks lately lived and between Mr. Weston's and the house where H. M. Arms lives were the houses of Simeon and Taylor Spencer."*

The census of 1771 for Windsor Co., VT, indicates a Nathaniel Weston living in or around Springfield, where there were only 141 people and 27 heads of

[188] War of 1812 Index, Onondaga County Historical Association
[189] Vital Records of Wilmington, MA
[190] History of the Town of Springfield, Vermont, with a Genealogical Record, 1752-1895, by C. Horace and Justin Dartt.

household. There was also a Samuel Weston in Hertford. Nathaniel is also shown living there in the census of 1790.

Nathaniel and Molly had at least four children: Nathan (b. September 25, 1761), Stephen Weston (b. about 1771) Elijah Weston (b. January 23, 1778), and Hezekaih (b. about 1785??). Assuming that all of the above dates are correct, Nathan must have had a short gestation period since the time from their marriage to Nathan's birth is only five months. This might explain why they left Wilmington, MA, and a very religious family (his father was a deacon) for what must have been the relative wilderness of VT at that time. However, the 1810 census casts a little doubt on his birth date as it indicates that he was less than 46 years old at the time, while his birth date suggests that he would have been 49 years old. Also, there could well be other children born in VT who either died there or where left behind when the family moved on to further developing lands in New York.

In 1795, this family moved from Vermont to the town of Pompey, NY located S/SE of Syracuse, NY in Onendago Co. This is documented in the short biography of his son Elijah Weston contained in the "History of Onondaga County, New York"[191]:

> *Elijah Weston was born in the State of Vermont, January 23 1778, being the son of Nathaniel Weston. He removed with his father to the town of Pompey, Onondaga County, in 1795 and settled on the farm now owned and occupied by his son-in-law Justin F. Gates. He was married November 1, 1796 to Betsey Cotton……*

Nathaniel died on March 11, 1822 in the 85th year of his life. These dates, taken from his tombstone as indicated below, are consistent with the birth date of Nathaniel, son of Stephen and Elizabeth Weston of Wilmington, MA, shown in the following section. Nathaniel apparently died in a fire which consumed the house of his son Hezekaih. He was buried in the Jamesville Cemetery, not far from Pompey, but in the town of DeWitt. His wife, Mary (Molly?), died on January 10, 1820 and is buried with him. Present inscription documents do not list these stones, however, and they have apparently been lost.

> *In Beauchamps "Revolutionary Soldiers of Onondaga Couty" I find the following:*
>
> > *Nathaniel Weston—This pioneer went to Pompey in 1795 from Vermont, where his son Elijah was born January 23,*

[191] History of Onondaga County, New York, dated …….

1778. His name is not in the Vermont rolls but the Massachusetts rolls have four entries. In 1790 he was in Springfield, Vt.

In Beauchamp's supplement I find the inscriptions from his and his wife's tombstones:

"NATHANIEL WESTON died March 11, 1822, in the 85th year of his age. Mary, wife of Nathaniel Weston, died January 10, 1820, in the 79th year of her age."

Their stones are in the Jamesville Cemetery not far from Pompey, but in the town of DeWitt, formerly a part of the town of Manlius. Beauchamp says further: 'He was an inspector of elections in Pompey, 1799-1801.'"[192]

"Melancholy Fire: Mr. Weston, Aged 85 years, perished in the flames which consumed the dwelling hi son, Dr. Hezekiah Weston of Pompey, on Monday last. His aged mother broker her leg in escaping from the house."[193]

The above note from the Onondago Register published in 1822 suggests that Nathaniel was living with his youngest son Hezekaih when he died in the fire. The reference to Hezekaih's "aged mother" is a bit mysterious since, according to the note below, she died in 1820. Perhaps this was Hezekaih's mother-in-law rather than his mother who broke her leg.

Stephen Weston and Elizabeth Parker-Weston:

Stephen Weston was born in Reading, MA on April 10, 1697 and Elizabeth Parker was born on October 1, 1703, also in Reading[194]. In the late 1720s, they apparently moved from Reading to Wilmington, MA. Stephen held the rank of Deacon in the church. They had at least ten children: Ephraim, (b. September 8, 1722), Stephen (b. February 28, 1724/25) both born in Reading , Sarah (b. October 29,1730), Lydia (b. February 15, 1732), James (b. December 3 1735), Nathaniel (b. November 3, 1737), Nathan (b. March 17, 1740), Caleb (b. Jan 22, 1743), Mary (b. August 17, 1745) and Kezia (b. August 22, 1749), the latter eight born in Wilmington, MA.[195]

[192] Contents of a letter written April 3, 1939 to Miss Jessie M. Hutchins of Ann Arbor, MI by H. C. Durston.
[193] Onondaga Register, March 20, 1822, P.3 C1
[194] Vital Records of Reading, MA, to the year 1850, Thomas W. Baldwin, Boston, 1912.
[195] Ibid and Vital Records of Wilmington, MA.

In the death records of Wilmington, Stephen is recorded as dying on June 5, 1777, in his 81st year and is referred to as a Deacon[196]. Elizabeth died on April 22, 1766 in her 64th year[197]. Note that contrary to the Weston Family History summary given at the outset, at least this Stephen is not buried in Maine.

Stephen Weston and Sarah Townsend-Weston:

Stephen was born on December 8, 1667 in Reading, MA, and his wife, Sarah was born on September 4, 1673 in Lynn Village, MA. The date and place of their marriage is not known but, based upon the birth of their first child, they were probably married in 1796. They had at least three children; Stephen (b. April 10, 1697), Isaak (September 14, 1699) and John (b. October 19, 1707).

Stephen died on April 30, 1753 and Sarah died March 1, 1739/40 in Wakefield, MA[198]. This Stephen also appears to have not died in Maine.

John Weston and Sarah Fitch-Weston:

Even though they lived a long time ago, much seems to be known about John and Sarah as indicated in the quotes below. John was born in about 1630 in Buckinghamshire, England and emigrated to Salem, MA in 1644[199]. His wife, Sarah Fitch, was born on June 20, 1632 in St. Albens, Herford, England and was a resident of Reading, MA at the time of their marriage. They were married on April 18, 1653 in Lynn Village, MA[200]. They had 14 children: John (b. 8/17/1655), Sarah (b. 7/15/1656), Mary (b. 5/25/1659), John (b. 3/9/1660-61), Elizabeth (b. 2/7/1662-63), Samuel (b. 4/16/1665), Stephen (12/8/1667), Thomas (b. 11/20/1670), Zachariah (b. 1674), Mercy (b. 5/26/1678), Zachariah (b. 9/8/1681), Joseph (b. 5/30/1683), Susanna (b. 6/18/1686), and Sarah (b. 1687)[201]. Based upon the repetition of some names, it appears that several of their children died early and later newborns were given the same names.

> *"John Weston came from Buckinghamshire, England, to Salem about 1644, when a boy; worked for Nathaniel Putnam about three years before 1652,*

[196] Vital Records of Wilmington, MA.
[197] Ibid.
[198] Vital Records of Wakefield, MA.
[199] History of Salem, MA.
[200] Lynn Village was renamed Reading, Mass Records, Vol. II, P. 73.
[201] See Family Tree # 2186 in Vol. 5, Family Tree Maker, also Vital Records of Salem and Reading, MA.

when he went to Reading (Wakefield) to live. He had become a member of the Salem church in 1648". With footnote: "John Weston married Sarah Fitch of Reading in 1653; and died about 1723, nearly a century old. His children were baptized in Salem (except Stephen) as follows: Sarah (b. 5/10/1657), John (b. 8/29/1661), Elizabeth (b. 10/28/1663), Samuel (b. 9/10/1665), and Stephen (born 1667)"[202].

"John, Salem, joined the church in 1648, being then 17 yrs. old, if the family tradition be correct, which seems very probable that he came in 1644, age 13, from Buckinghamshire. Still, we must be careful to doubt in proper places, for the same valued testimony notes on his grave stone 'that he was one of the founders of the church in Reading.' Now we know the falsity of this, for he could be only 14 yrs. old on that event. He had removed to Reading, probably before marriage, and his early children were carried to Salem for baptism. They were Sarah (b. 15 July, 1656, bapt. 10, May, 1657), Mary (b. 25 May, 1659, perhaps died very soon, certainly her baptism is not found in at Salem first church), John (b. 9 March,1661, bapt. 29 August, 1661), and Elizabeth (bapt. October 1663); Stephen (b. about 1665); and perhaps Samuel and Thomas as Eaton in Genealogy Register II 48 indicates. In 1691 he was admitted as a freeman and died in 1723.[203]

Lynnfield Street in South Peabody, was laid out as a country highway between Salem and Reading, by John Porter and Nathaniel Putnam of Salem and Peter Palfrey and John Wesson of Reading, who were appointed March 25, 1659, and made their return June 24, 1660 as follows: Beginning at a place called the Butts in Salem bounds and so through a plain call Mr. Johnson's plain, then through a little plain between a great rocky hill and Mr. Gidny's meadow and through another little plain, leaving a brushy pond, called Dog Pond, on the lefthand, and so through a great plain, called Mr. Humphrey's plain, leaving Mr. Hmphrey's pond on the righthand, and so to the Lynn Line. The Salem portion of the way was laid out four rods wide. The return was accepted by the Salem Court Dec. 10, 1661. (See the

[202] History of Salem, MA.
[203] The Genealogy Dictionary of New England.

two returns which were made, printed in the records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County, volume II, page 333.)[204]

Herbert Franklin Wirth | 1878-1960

Herbert Franklin Wirth**205** was born on January 6, 1878 in Weesaw Township, Berrien County, Michigan. He was the first child of John Franklin Wirth and Rose Elizabeth Wirth (nee Raven) and is believed to have been born in a log cabin erected a few years earlier by John, perhaps with the help of his brother Henry and/or his half-brother Frank Vetter who lived nearby. The log cabin was located on a 120 acre farm that John inherited from his mother, Anna Marie (Mary) Wirth-Vetter- Peldewitz (nee Roth). The farm, located three miles south of New Troy, Michigan, is still owned by the Wirth family and the location of the log cabin and accompanying pole barn which made up the initial homestead is known. The following photograph of Herb's family was taken in about 1895, probably during a family visit to the Ohio area where both John and Rose were born.

[204] Copied from Family Tree Maker, CD117 New England Families #1, History of Salem, MA: Vol. II (1638-1670), Bellingham and Denison Grants.

[205] Data concerning Herb's ancestors and descendants was developed by the authors using census, family oral history, and telephone conversations with surviving descendants, land records, legal files and social security death index sources. Data concerning Clara's ancestors was obtained from the files of Robert W. Williams of Livonia, MI provided by Clara Jane Smith Vaughn.

Photograph of John F. Wirth family circa 1895
Left to right: John, Herbert, Rose and Otis

While little documentation of Herbert's childhood has been found, family lore and related documents provide some basis for speculation. After reaching school age, Herb most likely attended Elm Valley School located about a mile SE of the family farm. This was a small, multiple-grade one-room rural school that provided an elementary education for the local farm families. Later, Herb attended New Troy High School, New Troy, Michigan, and graduated from the 10th grade, the highest grade provided at the time. This school was quite progressive and is reported to have been one of the better schools in Berrien County at the time. A class mate was Nora Phillips who, many years later, would become his second wife.

As he matured, Herb worked on the family farm, helping his father and his brother Otis clear the land and build a granary (1893), a barn (1898) and a large farm house (1905). These building still exist and are in relatively good condition. During visits with the authors' family, Herb and Otis told to the authors many stories about the construction of these buildings, clearing the land, and farming methods in these early days. Shown below (L/R) are Herbert's brother Otis, Herbert, his mother Rose E. Raven-Wirth, and his father John Franklin Wirth. The new granary and barn are in the background.

Family lore handed down from Otis' son Clarence Wirth suggests that after marriage Herb was a farmer in two locations, one located in the SW corner of Buchanan Township, Berrien County, Michigan and a second located in Chickaming Township just a mile west of the Wirth farm. The former location is supported by the address given in the probate file of his father who died in 1906.

On January 6, 1901, Herb married Clara Morley who grew up in Galien MI. The marriage was performed in an Evangelical Association Church founded by Herbs grandmother (Anna Marie Vetter) located a mile SW of the Wirth farm. Living in Michigan did not agree with Herb because he suffered from asthma and the damp conditions with high pollen counts made life difficult. Never the less, Herb and Clara persevered and their family grew with the birth of two daughters, Hazel and Ruth. Hazel was born at the family's first location in Buchanan Township while Ruth was born at the second farm location in Chickaming Township. However, in 1909, Herb decided to move his family to Idaho in the hope that the Idaho climate would provide relief from the asthma symptoms. It is not known why he chose Idaho, but an aunt, Mary Beckwith (nee Vetter) moved to Payette, ID a decade or so earlier. Soon after arriving in Idaho, the family was again enlarged with the birth of their third daughter Fern.

Family Photograph showing (left to right)
Clara, Herbert, Hazel, Fern and Ruth Wirth
Taken in Twin Falls, ID on September 27, 1915
Inscription on the reverse side:
"A Merry Christmas to Mother"

After moving to Idaho, Herb farmed and worked for a masonry contractor in or near Twin Falls, Idaho. Then, in 1932, the family moved to Gooding, ID where Herb was in the automobile business. While they lived many miles apart during an era when travel was not easy, Herb and Otis visited each other on a fairly regular basis. Several trips showing Herb's and Otis in Michigan and Idaho are documented in photo form in albums kept by Clarence and Dorothy Wirth. The brothers enjoyed hunting, fishing, horseback riding, etc. in Idaho much as they did while they were growing up in Michigan. These photos are shown in companion folders entitled "Dorothy and Clarence, 1930 onward," and "Old Wirth Photos."

Herb retired in 1942 and returned to Twin Falls. This photo shows Clara and Herb on January 6, 1941 on their 40th wedding anniversary.

Clara passed away on May 16, 1945. A few years later, Herb visited Michigan and renewed his acquaintance with a childhood sweetheart and high school classmate Nora D. Spaulding, nee Phillips. They were married on December 15, 1953 in Twin Falls. Their wedding photo is shown below on the left. Herb visited Michigan many times over his lifetime. The early visits in the 1910s, 1920s and 1930s were true adventures since

the road systems were under development. In at least one case, the car trip took more than a month one way because storms had washed out the roads. They had to camp out in a tent for several weeks until repairs were made. During these visits, there was much reminiscing about how things were done "in the old days." The photo on the right below shows how harvesting grain had changed between when Herb was young and in 1946. Here, Herb is shown in front of the combine and Clarence Wirth is in the foreground with a cradle used to cut grain years before. The cradle has been saved and is in the granary shown above.

Herb passed away on September 26, 1960 and is buried in Sunset Memorial Park, Twin Falls, Idaho. His obituary is given below. Nora returned to the Midwest after Herb's death and is believed to have lived in Indiana.

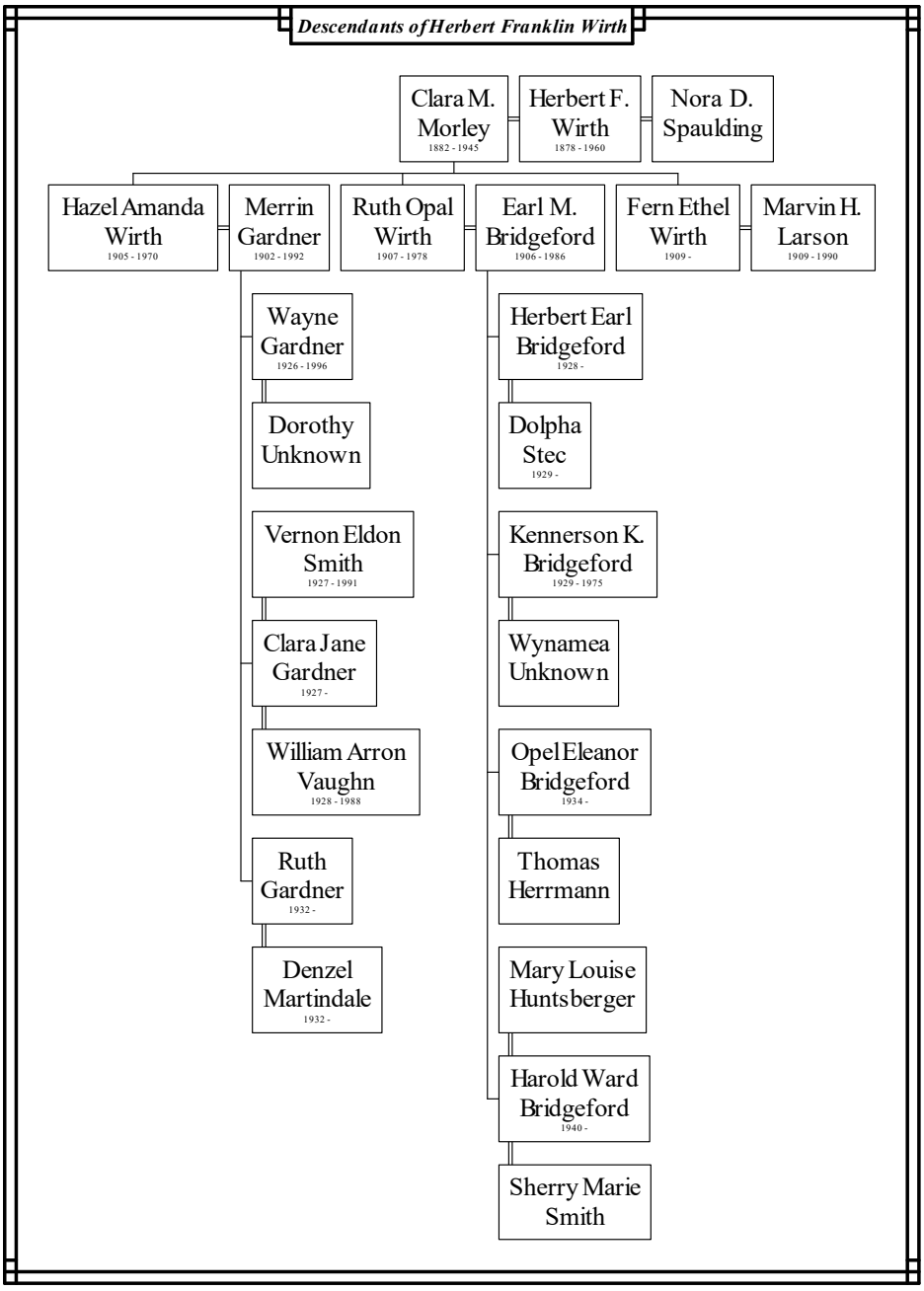
APPENDIX

OBITUARY
A Tribute: Published in the pages of The Times News, Twin Falls, Idaho, September 26, 1960

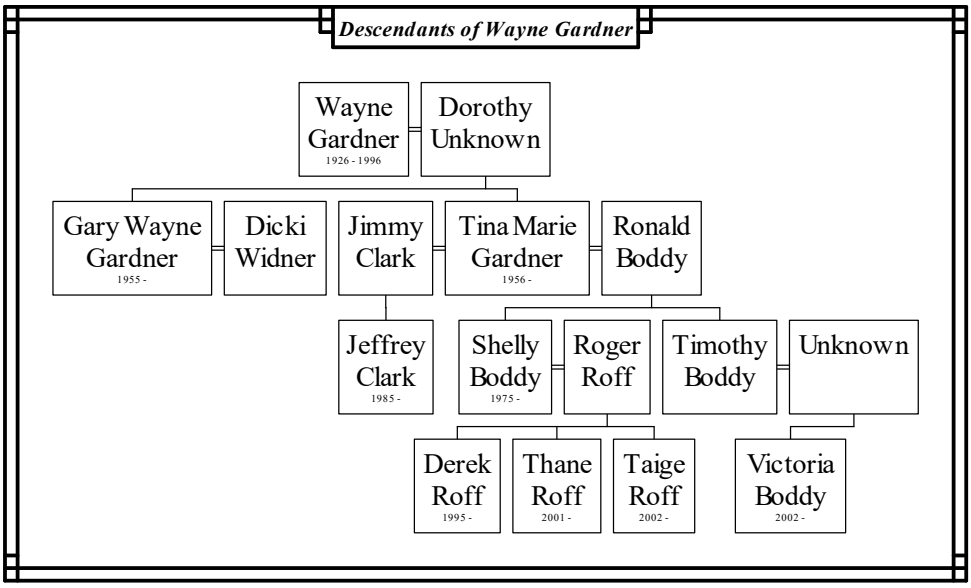
Herbert F. Wirth Passes at Age 82
Herbert Franklin Wirth, 82, 1245 Heyburn Avenue East, died about 8:40 a.m. Monday at Magic Valley Memorial Hospital following a lingering illness.
Mr. Wirth was born Jan. 6, 1878 in Berrien County, Michigan. He married Clara Morley Jan. 6, 1901 in Michigan and they came to Idaho in 1909, living first in and near Twin Falls. He farmed and worked for a masonry contractor until 1932 when they moved to Gooding. He was in the automobile business there until 1942 when he retired and moved back to Twin Falls.
Mrs. Wirth died May 16, 1945, and he married Nora D. Spaulding in Twin Falls on December 15, 1953. Survivors besides his widow include three daughters, Mrs. Hazel Gardner, Inglewood, Calif.; Mrs. Ruth Bridgeford, Helendale, Calif.; and Mrs. Fern Larson, Clayton; and seven grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. Funeral services are pending at Twin Falls Mortuary.

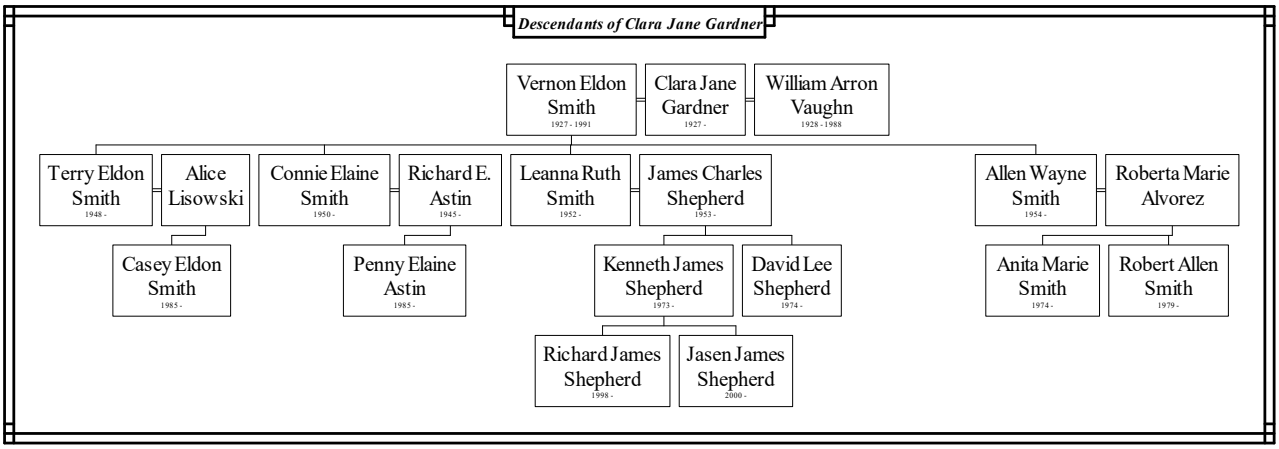
HERBERT WIRTH'S DESCENDANTS

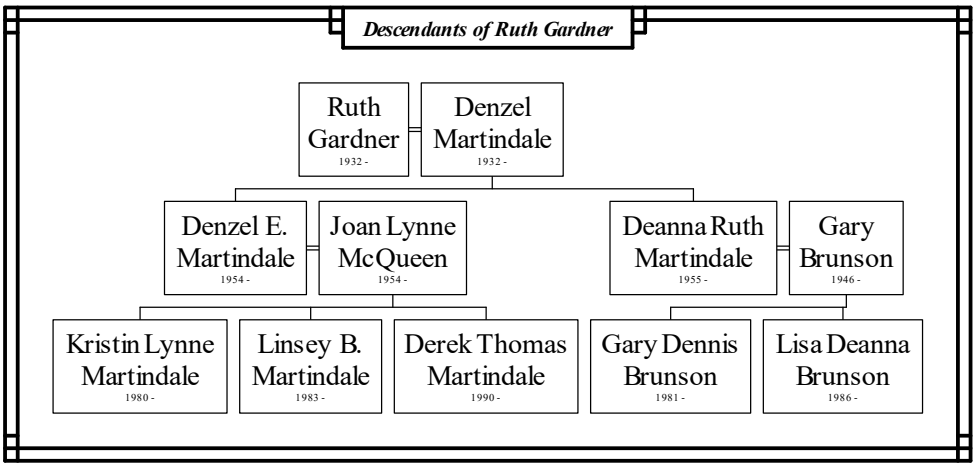
As indicated in their obituaries, Herb and Clara left a large and growing family. The first two generations of their descendants are shown in graphic form below. These charts are followed by tabular information about his descendants. These are then followed by a collection of photographs pertaining to his family.

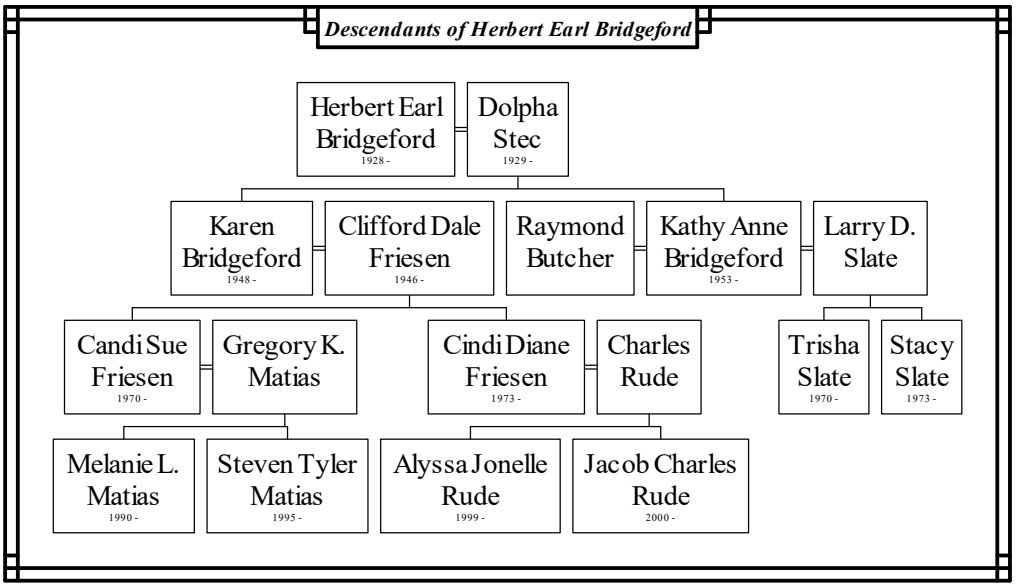

Descendants of Herbert Franklin Wirth
Clara M. Morley 1882 - 1945
Herbert F. Wirth 1878 - 1960
Nora D. Spaulding
Hazel Amanda Wirth 1905 - 1970
Merrin Gardner 1902 - 1992
Ruth Opal Wirth 1907 - 1978
Earl M. Bridgeford 1906 - 1986
Fern Ethel Wirth 1909 -
Marvin H. Larson 1909 - 1990
Wayne Gardner 1926 - 1996
Dorothy Unknown
Vernon Eldon Smith 1927 - 1991
Clara Jane Gardner 1927 -
William Arron Vaughn 1928 - 1988
Ruth Gardner 1932 -
Denzel Martindale 1932 -
Herbert Earl Bridgeford 1928 -
Dolpha Stec 1929 -
Kennerson K. Bridgeford 1929 - 1975
Wynamea Unknown
Opel Eleanor Bridgeford 1934 -
Thomas Herrmann
Mary Louise Huntsberger
Harold Ward Bridgeford 1940 -
Sherry Marie Smith

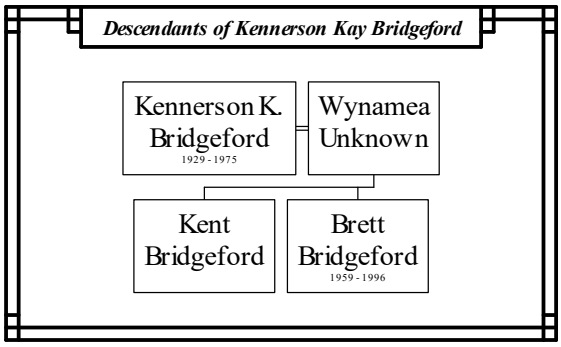
The following charts show the remaining generations for each of Herb and Clara's grandchildren shown in the chart above.

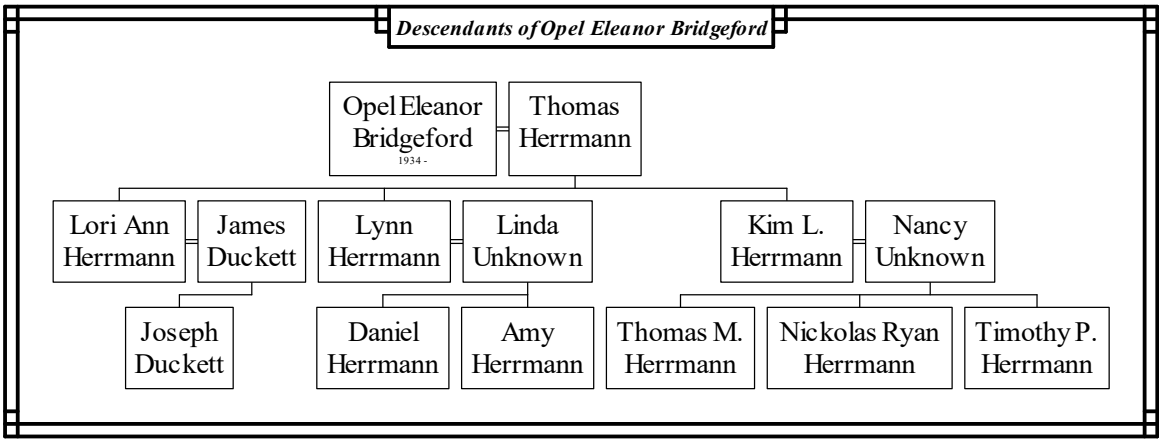

Descendants of Wayne Gardner
Wayne Gardner 1926 - 1996
Dorothy Unknown
Gary Wayne Gardner 1955 -
Dicki Widner
Jimmy Clark
Tina Marie Gardner 1956 -
Ronald Boddy
Jeffrey Clark 1985 -
Shelly Boddy 1975 -
Roger Roff
Timothy Boddy
Unknown
Derek Roff 1995 -
Thane Roff 2001 -
Taige Roff 2002 -
Victoria Boddy 2002 -

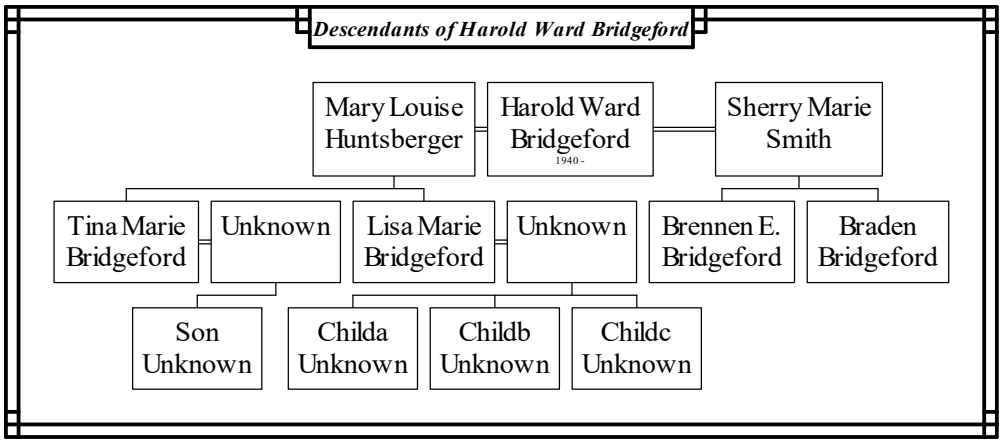

Descendants of Clara Jane Gardner
Vernon Eldon Smith 1927 - 1991
Clara Jane Gardner 1927 -
William Arron Vaughn 1928 - 1988
Terry Eldon Smith 1948 -
Alice Lisowski
Connie Elaine Smith 1950 -
Richard E. Astin 1945 -
Leanna Ruth Smith 1952 -
James Charles Shepherd 1953 -
Allen Wayne Smith 1954 -
Roberta Marie Alvorez
Casey Eldon Smith 1985 -
Penny Elaine Astin 1985 -
Kenneth James Shepherd 1973 -
David Lee Shepherd 1974 -
Anita Marie Smith 1974 -
Robert Allen Smith 1979 -
Richard James Shepherd 1998 -
Jasen James Shepherd 2000 -


Descendants of Ruth Gardner
Ruth Gardner 1932 -
Denzel Martindale 1932 -
Denzel E. Martindale 1954 -
Joan Lynne McQueen 1954 -
Deanna Ruth Martindale 1955 -
Gary Brunson 1946 -
Kristin Lynne Martindale 1980 -
Linsey B. Martindale 1983 -
Derek Thomas Martindale 1990 -
Gary Dennis Brunson 1981 -
Lisa Deanna Brunson 1986 -


Descendants of Herbert Earl Bridgeford
Herbert Earl Bridgeford 1928 -
Dolpha Stec 1929 -
Karen Bridgeford 1948 -
Clifford Dale Friesen 1946 -
Raymond Butcher
Kathy Anne Bridgeford 1953 -
Larry D. Slate
Candi Sue Friesen 1970 -
Gregory K. Matias
Cindi Diane Friesen 1973 -
Charles Rude
Trisha Slate 1970 -
Stacy Slate 1973 -
Melanie L. Matias 1990 -
Steven Tyler Matias 1995 -
Alyssa Jonelle Rude 1999 -
Jacob Charles Rude 2000 -


Descendants of Kennerson Kay Bridgeford
Kennerson K. Bridgeford 1929 - 1975
Wynamea Unknown
Kent Bridgeford
Brett Bridgeford 1959 - 1996


Descendants of Opel Eleanor Bridgeford
Opel Eleanor Bridgeford 1934 -
Thomas Herrmann
Lori Ann Herrmann
James Duckett
Lynn Herrmann
Linda Unknown
Kim L. Herrmann
Nancy Unknown
Joseph Duckett
Daniel Herrmann
Amy Herrmann
Thomas M. Herrmann
Nickolas Ryan Herrmann
Timothy P. Herrmann


Descendants of Harold Ward Bridgeford
Mary Louise Huntsberger
Harold Ward Bridgeford
1940 -
Sherry Marie Smith
Tina Marie Bridgeford
Unknown
Lisa Marie Bridgeford
Unknown
Brennen E. Bridgeford
Braden Bridgeford
Son Unknown
Childa Unknown
Childb Unknown
Childc Unknown

SURVIVING DESCENDANTS (as of 2002)

Name	Address	Phone
Children		
Fern Larson (nee Wirth)	12610 E. 34th Street Yuma, AZ 85367-5743	520-342-2505
Grandchildren		
Clara Jane Vaughn (nee Gardner)	2010 Merle Dr., Redding, CA 96001	530-246-9344
Ruth Martindale (nee Gardner)	18321 Glenburn Ave., Torrance, CA 90504	310-329-2481
Herbert E. Bridgeford	P.O. Box 5131, Shasta Lake City, CA 96089	530-275-1242
Harold Ward Bridgeford	Big Bear City, CA 92314	909-585-9889
Opel Herrmann (nee Bridgeford)	716 Collyer Dr., Redding, CA 96003	530 243-7828
Dorothy Unknown (m Wayne Gardner)	1383 West 88th Ave. Apt. 110 Denver, CO 80260	303-428-3302
Wayne Gardner (deceased)		
Kennerson Bridgeford (deceased)		
Great Grandchildren		
Connie Astin (nee Smith)	Torrance, CA	310-540-7161
Leanna Ruth Shepherd (nee Smith)	2010 Merle Dr., Redding, CA, 96001	530-246-9344
Terry Smith		
Allen Smith		
Denzel Edward Martindale		
Deanna Ruth Brunson (nee Martindale)		
Tina Clark (nee Gardner)	11411 Clarkson St., N. Glenn, Co., 80233	303-451-6477
Gary Gardner	14502 Inca Ct., Westminster, Co., 80020	303-280-7265
Karen Friesen (nee Bridgeford)		530-223-1501
Kathy Ann Butcher	1125 Edgewood Dr., Redding, CA 96003	530-275-0737
Kent Bridgeford	20662 Goshawk Cir Huntington Beach CA 92646	
Lorina Ann Duckett (nee Herrmann)	32229 1st Lane SW Federal Way, WA 98023	253-921-8110
Lynn Herrmann	23224 E. Maxwell Ave Liberty Lake, WA 99019	509-892-0853
Kim L. Herrmann	240 Kent Pl., San Ramon, CA, 94583	925-556-3451
Tina Marie Bridgeford		
Lisa Marie Bridgeford		
Brennen Eugene Bridgeford	Big Bear City, CA 92314	909-585-9889
Braden Bridgeford	Big Bear City, CA 92314	909-585-9889
Brent Bridgeford (deceased)		

Great-Great Grandchildren

Anthony Duckett, Joseph Duckett, Daniel Herrmann, Amy Herrmann, Thomas Mathew Herrmann, Nicholas Ryan Herrmann, Timothy Parker Herrmann, Gary Dennis Brunson, Lisa Dianne Brunson, Christen Lynne Martindale, Linsey Briana Martindale, Derek Thomas Martindale, Shelley Roff (nee Boddy), Timothy Boddy, Jeffery Clark (11411 Clarkson St., N. Glenn, Co., 80233, 303-451-6477), Candi Sue Friesen (nee Friesen), Cindi Diane Rude (nee Friesen), Trisha Slate, Stacy Slate

Great-Great-Great Grandchildren

Derek Roff, Thane Roff, Taige Roff, Victoria Boddy, Alyssa Jonelle Rude, Jacob Charles Rude, Melanie Leanne Matias, Steven Tyler Matias

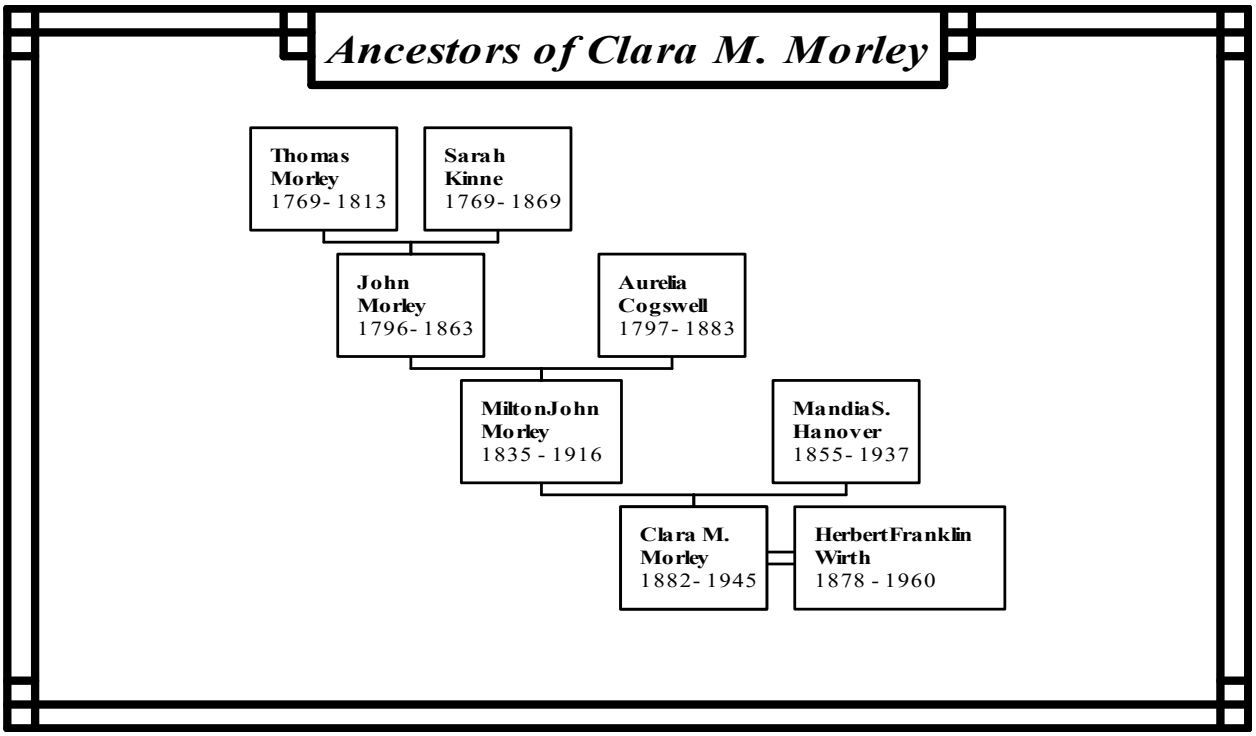
Clara Mabel Morley | 1882 -1945

Clara Mabel Morley, wife of Herbert F. Wirth, was born in Berrien County and grew up in the small town of Galien, Michigan. She came from a very large family of about 17 children. Her father, John Milton Morley (b. 4/28/1835, d. 12/6/1916), was married twice, first to Orpha Bixby (b. 3/26/1813, d. 11/24/1873) with whom he had 7 children, and then to Mandia S. Hanover (b. 11/1/1855, d. 1/25/1937). Clara was the fifth of 10 children born to Mandia and John Milton. Mandia and John are buried in Galien Cemetery, Berrien Co., MI. Clara's paternal grandparents were John Morley (b. 10/2/1796, d. 8/17/1863) and Aurelia Cogswell (b. 1797, d. 10/27/1883). They came from Pennsylvania, and were the first to be married in Tuscarora Township, Bradford County. Presiding was Rev. John Hazzard, the first Methodist circuit preacher in the area. John and Aurelia are buried in Bakertown Cemetery, located near Buchanan, MI. Clara's paternal great grandparents were Thomas Morley (b. 4/21/1769, d. 11/17/1813) and Sarah Kinne (b. 4/24/1769, d.1/1869). Thomas came from England and settled in Penn. where he and Sarah had 11 children. Sarah was born in Connecticut. Thomas is buried in the West Auburn Cemetery, West Auburn, Penn. The data in this paragraph are from the files of Robert W. Williams, 33374 Hampshire Rd., Livonia, MI and were provided to the author by Clara Jane Smith Vaughn.

Mandia Morley (nee Hanover) circa 1918
L-R: Rose E. Raven-Wirth, Lois Wirth, Mandia Hanover-Morley.

This photo was taken at the home of Mandia Morley, aka. Amanda, in Galien, MI. It shows Rose E. Wirth, the wife of John Franklin Wirth; Lois Wirth, the daughter of Otis Wirth and Rosemond Smith- Wirth, and Mandia, the mother of Clara Wirth.

The ancestors of Clara Morley are shown graphically in the chart below:


Ancestors of Clara M. Morley
Thomas Morley 1769- 1813
Sarah Kinne 1769- 1869
John Morley 1796- 1863
Aurelia Cogswell 1797- 1883
MiltonJohn Morley 1835 - 1916
MandiaS. Hanover 1855- 1937
Clara M. Morley 1882- 1945
HerbertFranklin Wirth 1878 - 1960

OBITUARY

A Tribute: Published in the pages of The Times News, Twin Falls, Idaho, May 16, 1945

Mrs. Clara Wirth Dies at Home Here.
Mrs. Clara M. Wirth, 62, died at her home, 356 North Elm Street, Twin Falls, at 7:45 a.m. Wednesday after an illness of several months. She was born Nov. 4, 1882 in Berrien County, Michigan. Moving to Idaho in 1909, she has made her home in Twin Falls and Gooding since then.
Mrs. Wirth was a member of the Church of Christ Scientist. Besides her husband H. F. Wirth, she is survived by three daughters, Mrs. M. E. Gardner, Twin Falls; Mrs. Earl Bridgeford, Lynnwood, Calif.; Mrs. Marvin Larson, Challis, Ida.; two sisters, Mrs. Rodney Hoadley, Michigan; Mrs. George Seyfred, Michigan; three brothers, Roy, Harry and John Morley, all living in Michigan, and a half brother, Perry Morley, Michigan. Seven grandchildren also survive.

Funeral arrangements are pending word from relatives. The body rests at the Twin Falls Mortuary.

Clarence John Wirth | 1912-1984

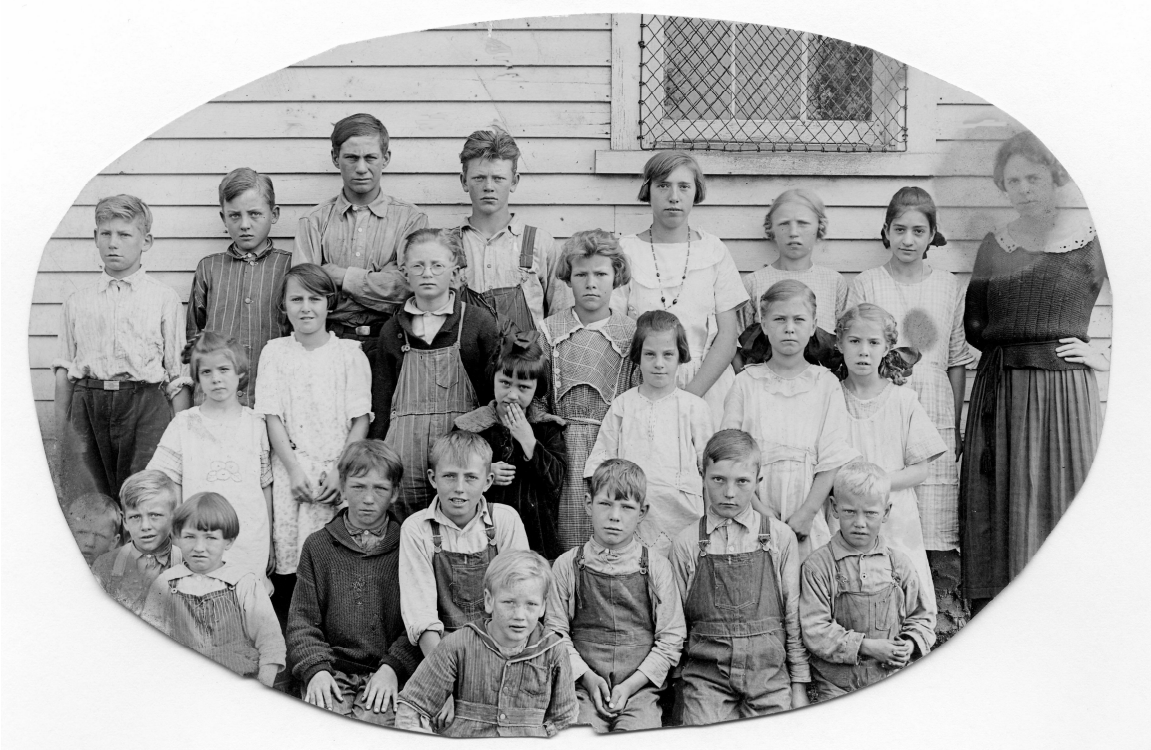
Clarence was born on November 4, 1912, the second surviving child of Otis and Rosemond Wirth. His birth occurred at the family home, approximately 3 miles south of New Troy Michigan. His sister, Lois, was about 5 years older than Clarence. Clarence at age 9 months is shown below with his sister and grandmother Rose Raven-Wirth. The other photo shows him with his bicycle at about 12 years old.

His early years were spent at home surrounded by family including grandmothers who lived with Otis and Rosemond in their old age. Before attending school, he had little interaction with children his age as was the norm for farm children in those days. This created in him an inventive nature as he found ways to amuse himself. He frequently played with toy farm tools under the front porch of the family home (above right), pretending to plow the fields or thresh grain.

His primary schooling through grade 8 was at the Elm Valley[206] rural school. This required a 2 mile round trip walk across the fields each day, rain or shine or snowstorm. Clarence is shown the photo below, second from the left in the top row. Many of the

[206] History of the Elm Valley School is contained in a folder entitled Special Studies which accompanies this genealogy.

children shown in this photo would be neighbors and friends for the rest of his life. The teacher, Evelyn Wire, even became his step mother later after the death of his mother Rosemond.



1923 ELM VALLEY SCHOOL CLASSES

L-R Top Row: Walter Strefling, Clarence Wirth, Eldon Decker, Bill Strefling, Mary Lozmack, Elsie Hartfert, Violet Platz
Middle Row: Violet Roberts, Thelma Lintner, Steve Most, Inez Decker, Ida Strefling, Lucille Lintner, Leatha Platz, Myrtle Roberts
Bottom Row: Unknown, Earnest Strefling, Don Metzger, Otto Strefling, Tom Lozmack, Alfred Strefling, George Schroeder, Joe Lozmack, Paul Strefling
Teacher: Evelyn Wire
Students identified by Clarence Wirth in 1982

When he was about 10 years old, he contacted scarlet fever but he recovered with no lasting impacts on his health. During this illness, the family gave him a scale model farm wagon. This toy provided endless entertainment and he treasured and protected it all his life. He is shown here with Charlie Angoline, a man who helped out on the farm from time to time. He is also holding a toy car that he also received at the time.

As a boy, he developed an interest in mechanics and was intrigued with the workings of steam engines and small one-cylinder internal combustion engines that he saw on the farm. He also became fascinated with airplanes and would get very excited when dirigibles and airplanes would fly over the farm. His passion for airplanes and flying continued throughout his life.

He related many tales about his early life but one stands out. When he was about 10 years old, he accompanied his grandmother, Rose Raven-Wirth to visit her relatives in Ohio. He said he had to sleep in an upstairs bedroom. It was very scary in part because every night a train went by at some distance and the mournful sound of the whistle sent shivers down his spine. While he did not remember where he was, we now believe that this farm belonged to his grandmother's cousin, a member of the Miller family who lived in the Lorain area of OH. More on this family is in the chapter THE MILLER LINE.

After Clarence graduated from Elm Valley School, he entered New Troy High School, first in an earlier wood-framed schoolhouse and finally in a newly constructed brick school. There, he became good friends with Phil Sexton who lived in Sawyer. Phil had a Ford car and they chummed around in it during lunch hours and after school. In their junior and senior grades, Phil was dating Vera Spaulding, and introduced Clarence to her cousin, Dorothy O'Barton. The dual romance bloomed, and the foursome became long-life friend. They graduated in the class of 1930. Records from their graduation and Clarence and Dorothy's married life can be found in a photo album recorded in a folder entitled "Clarence and Dorothy, 1930 onward[207]."

After graduation, Clarence enrolled in Parks Air College, East St. Louis, MO in the fall of 1930. His goal was to become an aircraft mechanic. However, the great depression made it financially impossible for him to continue his studies there and he returned to the family farm in March, 1931, after completing 6 months of study with an average grade of 88.5. He made several friends there and kept in touch with two for many years[208].

Clarence and Dorothy continued their romance and on July 30, 1933, they married. The reception was held in Buchanan at the home of Lois Watson, Clarence's sister, as shown below. Clarence was very sick with the flu but made it through the wedding and the honeymoon at Mammoth Cave, KY.

[207] A copy of the photo album "Clarence and Dorothy, 1930 and onward" is included in the folder Genealogy Intro/Wirth.
[208] Ibid

After marriage, they moved into the Wirth home with Clarence's parents, Otis and Rosemond. However, earlier in her married life, Rosemond was not terribly happy living with Otis's mother saying, "There is not enough room in any home for two women." She insisted that she and Otis move to a rental home and finally to their own home located just south of the Brethren Church in New Troy. Otis, and less frequently, Rosemond then commuted to the farm on weekdays with Otis helping with the farming and Rosemond with housework, gardening, canning, and eventually children.

Over time, Clarence took more and more responsibility for running the farm and eventually purchased it from Otis. Clarence was intent upon modernizing the farms operations. He constructed a silo to provide winter feed for cattle. He bought several early tractors and was one of the first in the area to buy a combine. For several years in the early 1940s, he was hired by local farmers to harvest their grain. Although Otis could not imagine running a farm without horses, Clarence sold the remaining team in 1940 after they ran away and threw Otis from a wagon, injuring his shoulder.

Michigan State College was one of the original land grant colleges formed to promote farming and soil conservation techniques in the farm community. Districts were set up in each county to promulgate these techniques. Clarence was a charter member of the Galen River Soil Conservation District and was elected president, an office he held for several years. He was quick to see the benefits of soil conservation and had the farm surveyed and laid out the fields in contours and waterways. The farm became a showcase of this application and the state agriculture agents arranged tours where other farmers were given a ride through the fields and listened to a talk by the agent and Clarence. The clipping below shows one of the last such tours in 1984. Here, as before, they were treated to Dorothy's famous homemade donuts and coffee/cider.

Conservation Tour Held In Galien Area

About 85 persons viewed various soil conservation techniques in southwest Berrien County during an afternoon tour and hog roast this week sponsored by the Galien River Soil Conservation District.

First stop was at the Clarence Wirth centennial farm on Avery Road, south of Warren Woods Road, where he showed two grassed waterways installated about 1980. Wirth is a charter member of the district and one of its first directors.

The group then went to the Tim and Calvin Sherrill farm on Flynn Road, south of Warren Woods, where they viewed an erosion control and diversion structure.

Next stop was the property of Jerry Koeble at the corner of Kruger Road and Avery, where the group viewed a surface drainage system installed a few weeks ago.

Warren Strefling, whose farm is on Pardee Road, north of Warren Woods, showed his no-till corn and soybeans and some test plots. There was then a comparison demonstration of the new Paraplow versus a V Ripper. The Paraplow, which lifts the soil and then drops it back in place without disturbing the surface residue, is being leased by the district, which will rent it to farmers. Some tests will be made to measure its effectiveness, according to U.S. Soil Conservation Service District Conservationist Lester Hainey.

Final stop was the park in Galien, where various agri-businesses paid for the hog roast.

CONSERVATION TOUR: The outlined grassed waterway on the Clarence Wirth farm in Weesaw Township drains water down the lengthy slope without causing erosion. It was one of two seen on the Wirth farm by people who attended the annual conservation tour and pig roast sponsored by the Galien River Soil Conservation District. (Staff photo)

9-14-84

From childhood on, Clarence was fascinated with airplanes. He whittled from solid wood models of planes he saw at Parks Air College and in magazines. In the mid-1940s, he built models that used model engines and flew them on control lines on a grass circle built in a field south of the barn. After WWII, he took flying lessons and soloed in a Piper Cub on August 7, 1946. He then went on to "check out" in several other types of single engine planes over the years. After receiving his private license on July 22, 1950, he flew his family and neighbors around to look at their homes and farms. He would fly anyone who would help pay the rental fee. The last entry in the only log book that was retained is dated February 14, 1965[209]. However, there may have been a second log book that has been misplaced. Later, he and son Gary built an ultra-light aircraft (Weedhopper) and flew it around the farm. They kept it in a hanger built at the farm.

Two unique airplane rides stood out later in his life. While on vacation in Hawaii, he performed acrobatics with an instructor in a Citobria aircraft. But the most unique time at the controls occurred when he was visiting his son Guy in Houston, TX. While driving, they happened upon a dirigible in a field giving rides to company dignitaries and families. They stopped and Clarence asked if he might have a ride. Since some of the scheduled passengers had not shown up, Clarence and son Gary hopped aboard.

[209] A transcription of his flight log is included in the appendix to this chapter.

Clarence sat behind the pilot, and after being airborne, was able to take the controls for a brief time.

Clarence had a wide range of interests and was an avid reader. Weather, local archeology and history were three of his favorites after flying. He provided a good role model to his children in that regard. One of the authors recalls him explaining the concept of the speed of sound by observing and listening to a passing airplane. He described how steam engines and internal combustion engines worked and how weather phenomena came about. This and work on farm machinery developed a strong sense of practical scientific principles in his children. This coupled with Dorothy's tutoring resulting in all their children attending college.

By virtue of his wide span of interests, it was natural for him to become active in local politics as well as the Soil Conservation District activities mentioned above. In 1951, he was elected to the New Troy School Board as shown in the photo below. He is shown here (second from the left) along with board members (L-R) Martin Hauch (trustee), Clarence, Milton Mitchell (trustee), Edmond Eccles (superintendant), Norman Wietzel, and Mrs. Marcela Woods. Clarence also served on the Berrien County Farm Bureau Oil Board. Later, he was elected trustee of the Weesaw Township and served until his death in 1984. His son, Gary, completed his tenure after Clarence's death.

Clarence's broad range of interests also landed him a spot in the radio program RFD America in 1948. This program held local contests about farming knowledge in counties throughout the Midwest with the winners going on to a final contest broadcast live on a Chicago radio station. Clarence was one of three winners from Berrien County and was feted for several days in Chicago waiting for the final contest. He was first runner-up in

this final contest, winning a year's supply of overalls, a mangle ironing roller, and a 3/8 carat diamond ring[210].

Dorothy and Clarence had 5 children. The photo below is of the family taken in the late1950's. In the photo, L to R, are shown Guy, Gary, Dorothy, Clarence, Rick, Carol and John. Individual biographies/autobiographies of each child are included in separate chapters earlier in this genealogy. Three children survive at the time of this writing: Gary, Guy and John (Jack). Rick continued the love of airplanes but was unfortunately killed in a small plane accident in 1996 several years after Clarence's death. Carol passed away in 1972 at age 29 after a long battle with breast cancer. Her death had a long lasting impact on both Clarence and Dorothy. His birth and death certificates are included in the appendix along with his obituary and flight log.

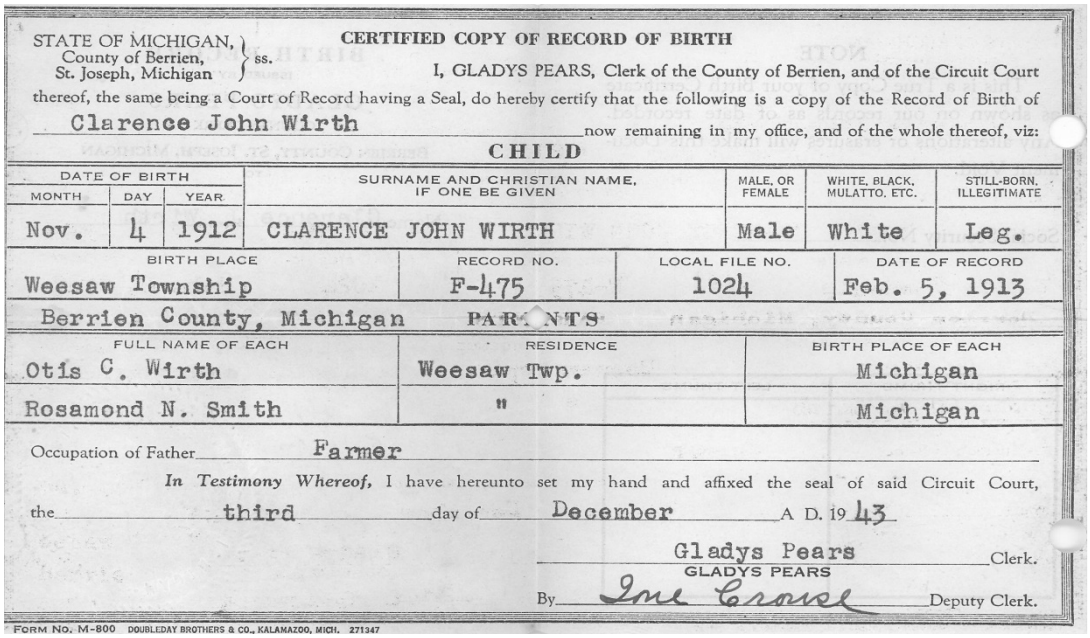
In the 1960's, Clarence was diagnosed with skin cancer caused by exposure to the sun during long years of farming. This was followed in 1980 by a diagnosis of prostate cancer which had metastasized to the bone. He began chemotherapy treatments which had very detrimental effects on his health. His Dr. told him that the high doses needed to control the cancer would also degrade his circulatory system. Clarence told the Dr. should take steps to maximize his life span since he had things to do.

[210] An audio recording of the contest is included in the folder Genealogy Intro/Wirth/Dorothy and Clarence, 1930 onward

Clarence had a strong tie to the land. In the last months of his life, he was determined to leave the land in good condition. He was focused on making sure that the waterways were in good repair and the soil erosion, which ran to the Northeast from the Barn, was repaired and steps taken to prevent further problems. The newspaper clipping shown above documents this activity. His desire was to preserve the farm in the family name and not be broken in parcels. His son Gary was taking over the farm, which pleased Clarence since he saw this as the continuation of the farm being in the Wirth name.

In 1983, Clarence and Dorothy celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a party given by their children at the farm. Clarence's spirits were high at the party as he reminisced with people he and Dorothy had known for decades. Shortly after this time, the negative effects of the chemotherapy began to appear and he had a series of strokes, which led to him being hospitalized. He died on November 13, 1984 of a serious stroke. He and Dorothy are buried in New Troy cemetery in an area of the cemetery he helped procure for the township while he was trustee.

APPENDIX



STATE OF MICHIGAN, County of Berrien, St. Joseph, Michigan } ss.

CERTIFIED COPY OF RECORD OF BIRTH

I, GLADYS PEARS, Clerk of the County of Berrien, and of the Circuit Court thereof, the same being a Court of Record having a Seal, do hereby certify that the following is a copy of the Record of Birth of Clarence John Wirth now remaining in my office, and of the whole thereof, viz:

CHILD

DATE OF BIRTH MONTH	DAY	YEAR	SURNAME AND CHRISTIAN NAME, IF ONE BE GIVEN	MALE, OR FEMALE	WHITE, BLACK, MULATTO, ETC.	STILL-BORN, ILLEGITIMATE
Nov.	4	1912	CLARENCE JOHN WIRTH	Male	White	Leg.

BIRTH PLACE	RECORD NO.	LOCAL FILE NO.	DATE OF RECORD
Weesaw Township	F-475	1024	Feb. 5, 1913
Berrien County, Michigan			

PARENTS

FULL NAME OF EACH	RESIDENCE	BIRTH PLACE OF EACH
Otis C. Wirth	Weesaw Twp.	Michigan
Rosamond N. Smith	"	Michigan

Occupation of Father Farmer

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Circuit Court, the third day of December A D. 19 43

Gladys Pears Clerk.
GLADYS PEARS

By Ione Crouse Deputy Clerk.

FORM NO. M-800 DOUBLEDAY BROTHERS & CO., KALAMAZOO, MICH. 271347

Birth certificate and obituaries
for Clarence Wirth.

Funeral Rites For C.J. Wirth Will Be Saturday

THREE OAKS — Funeral services for Clarence J. Wirth, 72, a Weesaw Township Board trustee who died Tuesday at Mercy Hospital in Benton Harbor, are scheduled for Saturday at 2 p.m. at Connelly-Noble Funeral Home, Three Oaks. Burial will be in New Troy Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Berrien County Cancer Service or the Weesaw Township Ambulance Service. Friends may call at the funeral home from 2 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. Friday.

Clarence Wirth

Mr. Wirth was born Nov. 4, 1912, in Weesaw Township and resided on Route 2, Avery Road, Three Oaks. He had been engaged in farming, was a representative of the St. Joseph Monument Co. and was a school bus driver for 18 years for the New Troy and later River Valley school systems.

He was a member of the former New Troy School Board, a member of the Berrien County Farm Bureau Oil Board and a charter member of the Galien River Soil Conservation District.

Survivors include: his wife, the former Dorothy O'Barton, whom he married July 29, 1933; four sons — John L. of Albuquerque, N.M., Guy B. of Houston, Texas, Gary R. of Three Oaks and Rick of Jenison; and nine grandchildren. A daughter, Carol Metz, preceded him in death.

Clarence Wirth

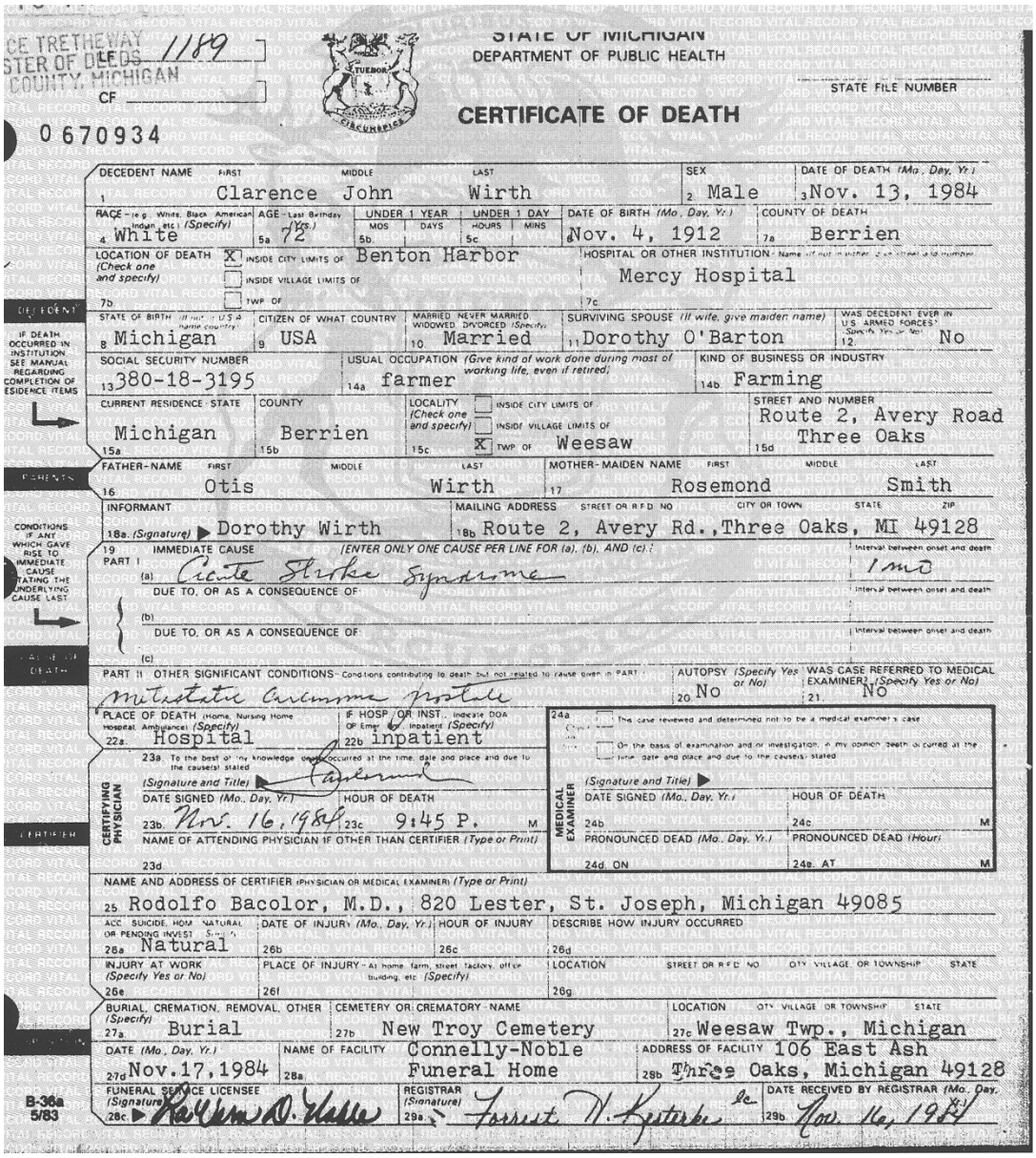
THREE OAKS — Clarence Wirth, 72, of Route 2, Avery Road, died at 9:45 p.m. Tuesday in Mercy Hospital, Benton Harbor, after an illness. The Connelly-Noble Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Rites Saturday for Weesaw Trustee Wirth

THREE OAKS — Services for Clarence J. Wirth, 72, of Route 2, Avery Road, a trustee on the Weesaw Twp. Board in Berrien County, who died at 9:45 p.m. Tuesday in Mercy Hospital, Benton Harbor, will be at 2 p.m. Saturday in the Connelly-Noble Funeral Home. Burial will be in New Troy Cemetery. Friends may call from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. Friday in the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to the township's ambulance fund or the Berrien County Cancer Service.

Mr. Wirth was born Nov. 4, 1912, in Berrien County, and was a lifelong area resident. On July 29, 1933, he married Dorothy O'Barton, who survives. Other survivors include four sons, John L. of Albuquerque, N.M., Guy B. of Houston, Texas, Gary R. of Three Oaks and Rick of Jenison, Mich.; and nine grandchildren. A daughter, Carol Metz, preceded him in death.

Along with his duties as a township trustee, Mr. Wirth was a farmer and a representative for the St. Joseph Monument Co. He was a former member of the New Troy School Board and the Berrien County Farm Bureau Oil Board. He was a charter member of the Galien River Soil Conservation District.



CE TRETHEWAY
STER OF DEEDS
COUNTY, MICHIGAN

LF 1189
CF

0670934

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

STATE FILE NUMBER

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

DECEDENT NAME (First, Middle, Last): 1 Clarence John Wirth
SEX: 2 Male
DATE OF DEATH (Mo., Day, Yr.): 3 Nov. 13, 1984
RACE (e.g. White, Black, American Indian, etc.) (Specify): 4 White
AGE (Last Birthday) (Yrs.): 5a 72
UNDER 1 YEAR: MOS 5b DAYS; UNDER 1 DAY: HOURS 5c MINS
DATE OF BIRTH (Mo., Day, Yr.): 6 Nov. 4, 1912
COUNTY OF DEATH: 7a Berrien
LOCATION OF DEATH (Check one and specify): [X] INSIDE CITY LIMITS OF Benton Harbor; [ ] INSIDE VILLAGE LIMITS OF; [ ] TWP. OF
HOSPITAL OR OTHER INSTITUTION (Name, if not in either, give street and number): 7c Mercy Hospital
STATE OF BIRTH (If not in U.S.A. name country): 8 Michigan
CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY: 9 USA
MARRIED, NEVER MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED (Specify): 10 Married
SURVIVING SPOUSE (If wife, give maiden name): 11 Dorothy O'Barton
WAS DECEDENT EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? (Specify Yes or No): 12 No
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: 13 380-18-3195
USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life, even if retired): 14a farmer
KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY: 14b Farming
CURRENT RESIDENCE STATE: 15a Michigan
COUNTY: 15b Berrien
LOCALITY (Check one and specify): [ ] INSIDE CITY LIMITS OF; [ ] INSIDE VILLAGE LIMITS OF; [X] TWP. OF Weesaw
STREET AND NUMBER: 15d Route 2, Avery Road Three Oaks
FATHER-NAME (First, Middle, Last): 16 Otis Wirth
MOTHER-MAIDEN NAME (First, Middle, Last): 17 Rosemond Smith
INFORMANT: 18a (Signature) Dorothy Wirth
MAILING ADDRESS (Street or R.F.D. No., City or Town, State, Zip): 18b Route 2, Avery Rd., Three Oaks, MI 49128

19 IMMEDIATE CAUSE (ENTER ONLY ONE CAUSE PER LINE FOR (a), (b), AND (c).)
PART I
(a) Acute Stroke Syndrome — Interval between onset and death: 1 mo
DUE TO, OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF
(b)
DUE TO, OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF
(c)

PART II OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS (Conditions contributing to death but not related to cause given in PART I): Metastatic Carcinoma prostate
AUTOPSY (Specify Yes or No): 20 No
WAS CASE REFERRED TO MEDICAL EXAMINER? (Specify Yes or No): 21 No

PLACE OF DEATH (Home, Nursing Home, Hospital, Ambulance) (Specify): 22a Hospital
IF HOSP. OR INST., indicate DOA, OP, Emer. Inpatient (Specify): 22b inpatient

CERTIFYING PHYSICIAN
23a. To the best of my knowledge, death occurred at the time, date and place and due to the cause(s) stated
(Signature and Title) [signature]
DATE SIGNED (Mo., Day, Yr.): 23b Nov. 16, 1984
HOUR OF DEATH: 23c 9:45 P. M
NAME OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN IF OTHER THAN CERTIFIER (Type or Print): 23d

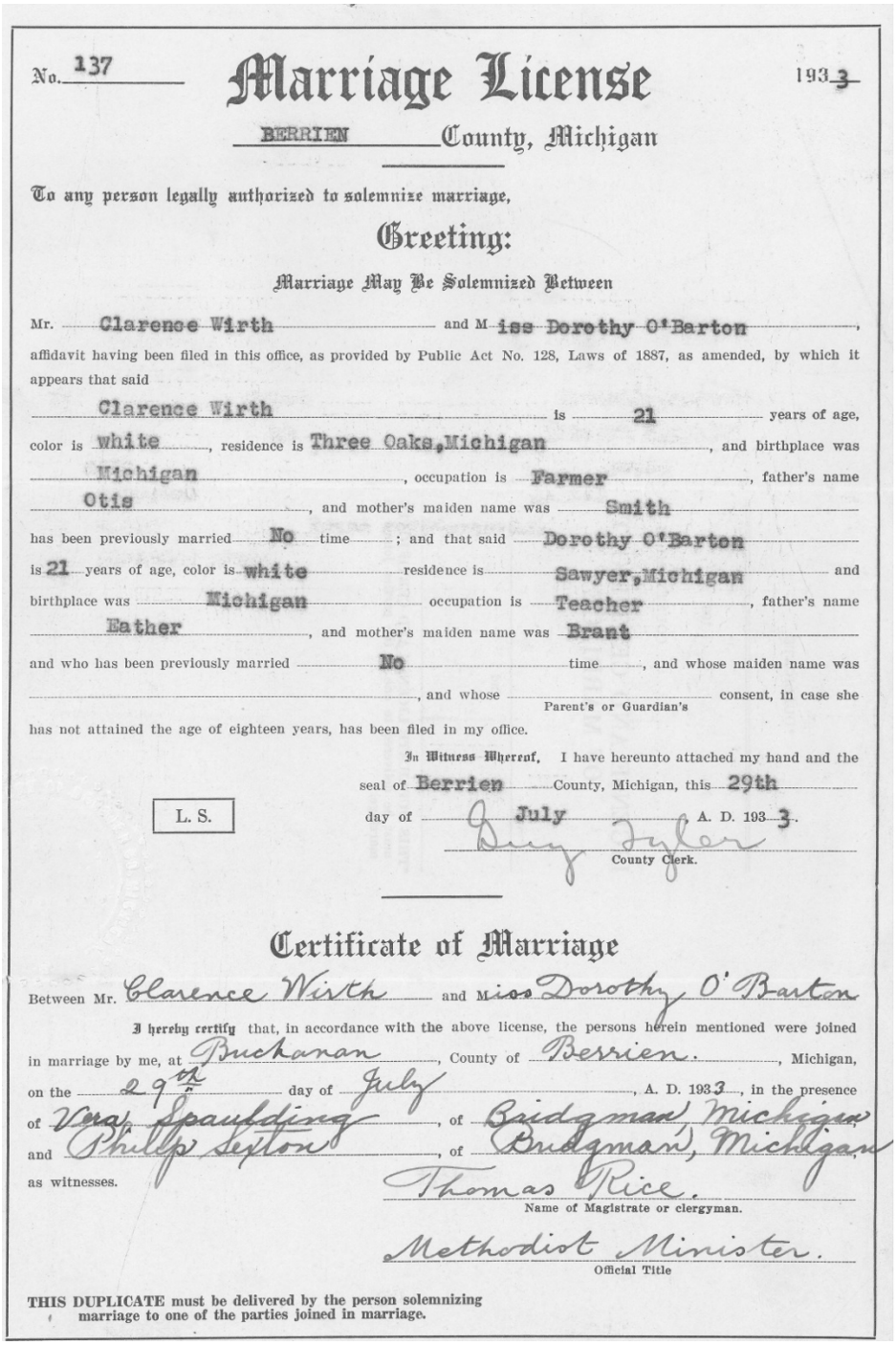
MEDICAL EXAMINER
24a [ ] This case reviewed and determined not to be a medical examiner's case
[ ] On the basis of examination and/or investigation, in my opinion death occurred at the time, date and place and due to the cause(s) stated
(Signature and Title)
DATE SIGNED (Mo., Day, Yr.): 24b
HOUR OF DEATH: 24c M
PRONOUNCED DEAD (Mo., Day, Yr.): 24d. ON
PRONOUNCED DEAD (Hour): 24e. AT M

NAME AND ADDRESS OF CERTIFIER (PHYSICIAN OR MEDICAL EXAMINER) (Type or Print): 25 Rodolfo Bacolor, M.D., 820 Lester, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085
ACC., SUICIDE, HOM., NATURAL OR PENDING INVEST. (Specify): 26a Natural
DATE OF INJURY (Mo., Day, Yr.): 26b
HOUR OF INJURY: 26c
DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED: 26d
INJURY AT WORK (Specify Yes or No): 26e
PLACE OF INJURY (At home, farm, street, factory, office building, etc.) (Specify): 26f
LOCATION (Street or R.F.D. No., City, Village, or Township, State): 26g

BURIAL, CREMATION, REMOVAL, OTHER (Specify): 27a Burial
CEMETERY OR CREMATORY NAME: 27b New Troy Cemetery
LOCATION (City, Village, or Township, State): 27c Weesaw Twp., Michigan
DATE (Mo., Day, Yr.): 27d Nov. 17, 1984
NAME OF FACILITY: 28a Connelly-Noble Funeral Home
ADDRESS OF FACILITY: 28b 106 East Ash Three Oaks, Michigan 49128
FUNERAL SERVICE LICENSEE (Signature): 28c [signature]
REGISTRAR (Signature): 29a Forrest W. Kesterke lc
DATE RECEIVED BY REGISTRAR (Mo., Day, Yr.): 29b Nov. 16, 1984

B-36a 5/83

Clarence Wirth Death Certificate



No. 137

Marriage License

1933

BERRIEN County, Michigan

To any person legally authorized to solemnize marriage,

Greeting:

Marriage May Be Solemnized Between

Mr. Clarence Wirth and Miss Dorothy O'Barton,

affidavit having been filed in this office, as provided by Public Act No. 128, Laws of 1887, as amended, by which it appears that said

Clarence Wirth is 21 years of age, color is white, residence is Three Oaks, Michigan, and birthplace was Michigan, occupation is Farmer, father's name Otis, and mother's maiden name was Smith has been previously married No time; and that said Dorothy O'Barton is 21 years of age, color is white residence is Sawyer, Michigan and birthplace was Michigan occupation is Teacher, father's name Father, and mother's maiden name was Brant and who has been previously married No time, and whose maiden name was _____, and whose _____ consent, in case she
Parent's or Guardian's
has not attained the age of eighteen years, has been filed in my office.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto attached my hand and the seal of Berrien County, Michigan, this 29th day of July, A. D. 1933.

L. S.

Duey Tyler
County Clerk.

Certificate of Marriage

Between Mr. Clarence Wirth and Miss Dorothy O'Barton

I hereby certify that, in accordance with the above license, the persons herein mentioned were joined in marriage by me, at Buchanan, County of Berrien., Michigan, on the 29th day of July, A. D. 1933, in the presence of Vera Spaulding, of Bridgman, Michigan and Philip Seyton, of Bridgman, Michigan as witnesses.

Thomas Rice.
Name of Magistrate or clergyman.

Methodist Minister.
Official Title

THIS DUPLICATE must be delivered by the person solemnizing marriage to one of the parties joined in marriage.

Dorothy and Clarence's Marriage License

FLIGHT LOG BOOK
Of
CLARENCE J. WIRTH

This is a summary of the data from the "Pilot Flight Record and Log Book" of Clarence Wirth. It begins on August 26, 1945 and runs to February 14, 1965. Since he continued to fly after 1965, there must be another log book that has not yet located. The identification section shows the following:

Name	Clarence Wirth
Address	Three Oaks, Michigan
Birth Date	11/4/1912
Height	6' 1"
Color Hair	Blonde
Color Eyes	Blue
Weight	180#

The comment column contains references to several people who were either passengers or instructors. Where the "dual time" column contains a nonzero entry, these are usually the names of instructors. Some passengers are referred to with first names or nicknames such as indicated below:

Dort	Dorothy Wirth, Clarence's Wife
Dutch	John (Jack) Wirth, son
Guy	Guy B. Wirth, son
Carol	Carol S. Wirth, daughter
Gary	Gary R. Wirth, son
Rick	Rick C. Wirth, son
Arnold	Arnold Schroeder, neighbor and owner of Piper J3 N42729. This plane was hangered at the Schroeder farm for a short time.
Wash	Washington O'Brien, soil conservation, county agent?

This log book indicates that Clarence took up his long-held ambition to learn to fly on August 26, 1945. He soloed one year later on February 7, 1946 after 10 hours and 20 minutes of instruction. He then continued instruction for several years, achieving his private license on July 22, 1950. For many years thereafter he flew for his own pleasure and gave rides to countless neighbors and friends who wished to see their homes and farms from the air.

The tables below suggest a total flying time of 299 hours and 22 minutes. This differs somewhat from the values shown in the log book, due either to addition errors on the part of Clarence or tabulation errors on the part of the transcriber.

Date	Flight from	Flight to	Aircraft	Tail #	Solo Time	Dual Time	Comments
8/26/45	Benton Harbor	Local	Piper J5	NC33063	0	30	Effect of controls Samuel R. Tracy
9/9/45	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	0	30	Climbs,glides,turns, st. level. Tracy
9/16/45	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	0	30	Climbing, gliding turns Tracy
10/2/45	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	0	30	S turns, demo stalls, Tracy
10/19/45	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	0	30	S turns, stalls, etc Tracy
11/2/45	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	0	45	Stalls, pwr on & off, Tracy
11/18/45	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	0	45	Take off & landings, Tracy
11/25/45	Niles	Niles	Piper J3	NC27969	0	30	Take off, landing, climbs, H.J.c93264
12/5/45	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	0	60	Take off, landing, stalls H.J.C93264
12/15/45	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC35546	0	30	Take off, climbs, spins, HJ C93264
12/22/45	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	0	45	Landings & takeoff
12/23/45	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	0	60	Takeoff &landing, H. Johnson C305068
12/29/45	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC35444	0	60	Ditto
1/5/46	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC35444	0	60	Ditto
1/27/46	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC35485	0	30	Landings, Wilbur Adams
2/7/46	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC27969	5	55	First Solo! H.J.C305068
2/10/46	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC27969	0	30	Takeoffs & landings
2/10/46	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC35444	30	0	Takeoffs & landings
2/17/46	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC27969	0	30	S turns & 3 landings
3/2/46	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC35546	25	20	H. Johnson
3/10/46	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC27969	0	35	W. Adams
3/20/46	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC35546	25	30	H Johnson
3/27/46	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC25824	60	0	C. Wirth
4/7/46	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC27969	45	10	H Johnson
4/17/46	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC35546	50	10	W. Adams
4/29/46	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC25824	60	0	Landings
TOTALS Minutes					300	835	

Date	Flight from	Flight to	Aircraft	Tail #	Solo Time	Dual Time	Comments
6/1/46	Niles	Niles	Piper J3	NC35485	45	15	W. Adams
6/22/46	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC25824	25	0	C. Wirth
8/11/46	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC35485	50	0	C. Wirth
8/20/46	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC98448	0	30	Wilbur Adams
8/9/46	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC88453	35	0	C. Wirth
9/9/46	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC27969	30	0	C. Wirth
10/2/46	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC88453	55	0	Stalls,8s,
10/4/46	Ditto	Hartford	Ditto	Ditto	0	30	W. Adams
10/4/46	Hartford	Niles	Ditto	Ditto	0	35	W. Adams
10/29/46	Niles	Ditto	Ditto	NC7120H	50	0	8s, C. Wirth
11/12/46	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC35444	30	0	Landings, C. Wirth
11/23/46	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC7984H	75	0	Spins, stalls.
12/10/46	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	35	0	
1/19/47	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC35485	40	0	
2/15/47	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC88453	30	0	Landings
3/19/47	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC35444	30	0	Turns, climbs, landings
3/30/47	Ditto	Ditto	Piper PA12 Cruiser	NC97211	25	30	Cruiser Checkout OK Thomas A. Hatfield
5/5/47	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	55	0	C. Wirth
5/6/47	Ditto	Harford	Piper J3	NC35546	30	0	G. L. Webber, Harford
5/6/47	Hartford	Niles	Ditto	Ditto	30	0	H. Johnson, Niles
5/6/47	Harford	Local	Ditto	Ditto	30	0	Flying farmers conv.
5/25/47	Niles	Niles	PA12	NC97211	35	0	Pylon 8s, C. Wirth
6/20/47	Niles	Local	Piper J3	NC7084H	30	0	Turns and landings
6/29/47	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC27969	30	0	Landings
7/20/47	Ditto	Ditto	PA12	NC97211	15	35	Thomas Hatfield
8/17/47	Ditto	Ditto	Piper J3	NC7120H	30	0	Landings, C. Wirth
8/24/47	Niles	Saugatuck	Ditto	Ditto	55	0	Lucille K. Schneider
8/24/47	Saugatuck	Benton Harbor	Ditto	Ditto	36	0	Mary Qert, Benton Harbor
8/24/47	Benton Harbor	Niles	Ditto	Ditto	32	0	W. Carey, Niles
9/27/47	Niles	Local	Ditto	NC27969	45	0	Spins, C. Wirth
10/30/47	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC35546	60	0	Ditto
4/25/48	Benton Harbor	Local	PA12	NC2334M	45	15	Check Ride, C. Farrell
6/14/48	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	15	40	Ditto
7/24/48	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	45	0	Glide turns, landings
8/15/48	Ditto	Ditto	Piper J3	NC42729	0	30	Check Solo, H. Hallak
9/10/48	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	50	0	C. Wirth
9/19/48	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	C. Wirth
10/1/48	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC98428	60	0	Pylon 8s, landings
12/1/48	Ditto	Ditto	PA12	NC2334M	25	0	Takeoffs, landings
3/17/49	Ditto	Dowagiac	Ditto	Ditto	20	0	Cross Country
3/17/49	Dowagiac	B. Harbor	Ditto	Ditto	22	0	Ditto
6/5/49	B. Harbor	Local	Piper J3	NC98428	0	30	W. McKindley
7/31/49	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC42729	0	30	Wm. Regal
CARRY					300	835	
TOTAL					1710	1155	

Date	Flight from	Flight to	Aircraft	Tail #	Solo Time	Dual Time	Comments
8/11/49	B. Harbor	Local	PA12	NC2334M	0	20	Check, Wm. Regal
9/18/49	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	55	0	C. Wirth
10/14/49	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	C. Wirth
10/22/49	Ditto	Ditto	Piper J3	NC98428	0	45	Pylon 8s, turns, spot landings, W. Regal
10/27/49	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	30	0	Wheel landings, Regal
4/3/50	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	0	35	P8s, turns, spots,Regal
4/7/50	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	0	30	Power stalls, Regal
6/30/50	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	20	30	Check landings, Regal
7/2/50	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC42729	50	0	Spots, turns, slow flight
7/9/50	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC98428	75	0	Spots, 8s. C. Wirth
7/18/50	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC42729	60	0	Steep turns, spots, stall
7/21/50	Ditto	Ditto	J3C65	Ditto	0	45	Ck for private test OK, C. Farrell
7/21/50	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	35	0	Spot landings
7/22/50	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	75	0	
7/22/50	Ditto	South Haven	Ditto	Ditto	25	0	
7/22/50	S. Haven	Local	Ditto	Ditto	0	50	Private Check Ride OK, K. Similan 3534
7/23/50	B. Harbor	Local	Ditto	Ditto	45	0	Bill and Dutch
8/6/50	Ditto	Ditto	PA12	NC2334M	50	0	Solo, Dort, Carroll
8/10/50	Ditto	Three Rivers	Ditto	Ditto	35	0	Wash, Dutch
8/10/50	Three Rivers	B. Harbor	Ditto	Ditto	40	0	Wash, Dutch
8/13/50	B. Harbor	Local	Piper J3	NC 98428	50	0	Vick Baney
8/20/50	Ditto	Ditto	PA 12	NC2334M	40	0	Dad and Evelyn
8/27/50	Ditto	Ditto	Piper J3	NC42929	60	0	H. Holtz & Dutch
9/3/50	Ditto	Ditto	PA12	NC2334M	55	0	J. Francis, Bob Pfauth
9/17/50	Ditto	Ditto	Ercoupe 415c	NC2815H	15	15	Check & solo, CW Farrell
9/17/50	Ditto	Ditto	Piper J3	NC98428	60	0	Vitek
9/24/50	Ditto	Ditto	PA12	NC2334M	55	0	Ritchie & Gifford
10/1/50	Ditto	Ditto	PA12	NC2334M	40	0	Vitek
10/1/50	Ditto	Ditto	Ercoupe 415c	NC2815H	50	0	Hampton
10/3/50	Ditto	Ditto	Piper j3	NC42939	30	0	W. Robinson
10/8/50	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	30	0	Dutch
10/8/50	Ditto	Ditto	PA12	NC2334M	65	0	Dale ?, Arnold & Boy
10/10/50	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	45	0	Dad and Herb
10/15/50	Ditto	Ditto	Ercoupe 415c	NC2815H	50	0	Dort
10/22/50	Ditto	Ditto	PA12	NC2334M	45	0	Mr.& Mrs. Julius Strifling
10/25/50	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	45	0	Bob Crawford, B. Ritchie
10/29/50	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	45	0	Mr. Mrs Paul Strefling
11/5/50	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	35	0	H. Vitek, Dutch
CARRY					1710	1155	
TOTAL					3180	1425	

Date	Flight from	Flight to	Aircraft	Tail #	Solo Time	Dual Time	Comments
11/5/50	B. Harbor	Local	Piper J3	NC42729	20	0	Vic Baney

11/24/50	Niles	Local	Cessna 140	NC4058N	5	15	Check ride, L. C. R.
12/29/50	B. Harbor	Local	Piper J3	NC42729	60	0	Ski Equiped, Dutch, Baney
2/25/51	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC98428	25	0	Dutch
2/25/51	Ditto	Ditto	PA12	NC2334N	15	0	Dort, Guy, Carol
3/11/51	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	40	0	Bud Morley, Jim
3/25/51	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	40	0	Vitek Brothers
4/15/51	Ditto	Ditto	Piper J3	NC42729	55	0	Dutch and Baney
4/29/51	Ditto	Ditto	PA12	NC2334M	55	0	Walt & Rhine Strefling
5/13/51	Niles	B. Harbor	Ditto	NC7728H	35	0	
5/13/51	B. Harbor	Niles	Ditto	NC7728H	60	0	Dewitt, Claton Wells, around County
6/17/51	B. Harbor	Local	Piper J3	NC98428	55	0	Bob Payne
6/18/51	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	40	0	Leonard Hill
7/10/51	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	105	0	Guy,Carol,Baney,Dutch
7/15/51	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	65	0	B. Ritchie
8/5/51	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	75	0	J. Wood, B. Ritchie, Dutch
8/19/51	Niles	Local	PA12	NC7728H	60	0	Family
8/26/51	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	40	0	Mr./Mrs M. Priest
8/26/51	Ditto	Ditto	Cessna	NC4058N	40	0	Check & Baney
9/9/51	Ditto	B. Harbor	PA12	NC7728H	25	0	Birney Crosby
9/9/51	B. Harbor	Niles	Ditto	Ditto	50	0	Birney Crosby
10/18/51	Ditto	Local	Piper J3	NC98428	55	0	B. Ritchie
11/2/51	Ditto	Grand Rapids	Piper J3	Ditto	60	0	Snow, low ceiling and poor visibility
11/2/51	Grand R.	Mt. Pleasant	Ditto	Ditto	65	0	Ditto
11/2/51	Mt. Pleasant	Benton Harbor	Ditto	Ditto	120	0	Ditto
11/11/51	Niles	Local	Ditto	NC88002	70	0	G. Peckam/Schultz
12/2/51	B. Harbor	Local	Ditto	NC98428	45	0	H. Raddee
2/17/52	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC42729	80	0	J. Branson, Braezayle & son
3/2/52	Niles	Local	Ditto	NC88002	60	0	B. Ritchie
3/14/52	B. Harbor	Local	PA12	N7790H	25	0	Dort
4/17/52	Ditto	Local	Aronca Champ		20	0	Dort
4/27/52	Ditto	Ditto	Piper J3	Nc98428	80	0	Dutch & Baney
5/7/52	Ditto	Detroit Wayne M	PA12	N7790H	125	0	Albert Hartfert, Martin Hauch, Radio Problem
5/7/52	Detroit	B. Harbor	Ditto	Ditto	105	0	Radio Problem
6/11/52	Niles	Local	Piper J3	NC88449	35	0	L. Hennessy, Ltrass Day
7/5/52	B. Harbor	Ditto	PA12	N7790H	100	0	Family
7/6/52	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	110	0	Geik, Dale & Shirley T.
Carry					3180	1425	
Total					5300	1440	

Date	Flight from	Flight to	Aircraft	Tail #	Solo Time	Dual Time	Comments
8/17/52	Ditto	Ditto	Aronca Champ		50	0	Dutch & Guy
7/6/52	Ditto	Ditto	Piper J3	NC42729	55	0	Baney
8/3/53	Ditto	Ditto	Ercoupe	NC94 676	165	0	A. W. Andersons, Berkley, family

8/24/52	B. Harbor	Local	PA12	N7790H	70	0	Kramer & Pearce
9/1/52	Ditto	Ditto	Piper J3	NC98428	105	0	Mr/Mrs Jochem & Berkley
9/14/52	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC42729	115	0	Arnold, Dutch, Baney
9/21/52	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC98428	65	0	Ditto
9/21/52	Ditto	Ditto	PA12	N7790H	55	0	Martin Mensinger&Mrs
10/12/52	Ditto	Ditto	Piper J3	NC98428	80	0	
10/17/52	B. Harbor	Decator IL	PA12	N7790H	155	0	McContosh &Eccles
10/17/52	Decatur	St. Louis	Ditto	Ditto	70	0	Ditto
10/17/52	St. Louis	Decatur	Ditto	Ditto	80	0	Ditto
10/17/	Decatur	B. Harbor	Ditto	Ditto	180	0	Ditto, Night landing
10/19/52	B. Harbor	Local	Ditto	Ditto	45	0	Dort, Carol, 35mph wind
10/26/52	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	50	0	Lavon Clay, Alic Schaeffer
10/26/52	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	45	0	B. Ritchie & Ann
10/29/52	Ditto	Ditto	Piper J3	NC98428	40	0	B. Ritchie
11/9/52	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC42729	90	0	H Raddie, V. Baney, Guy, Williamson
11/23/52	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	40	0	Dutch
11/23/52	Ditto	Ditto	Ercoupe	NC94676	20	0	Arnold
11/30/52	Niles	Local	Cessna	NC4058N	30	0	Dutch
12/7/52	B. Harbor	Local	Piper J3	NC98428	50	0	Raddie
1/4/53	Ditto	Ditto	Aeronca Champ	NC3596E	30	0	Kids
2/8/53	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	Ritchie
2/14/53	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	30	0	Dutch
2/15/53	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	Raddie
3/1/53	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	50	0	Ritchie
3/53	Ditto	Ditto	Piper J3	NC98428	30	0	Raddie
3/22/53	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	40	0	Ritchie
4/5/53	Ditto	Ditto	Aeronca Champ	NC3596E	80	0	
4/12/53	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	70	0	
5/5/53	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	Berkley
5/5/53	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	30	0	Guy
6/4/53	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	30	0	Solo
6/21/53	Ditto	Ditto	Piper J3	NC98428	20	0	Gene
6/21/53	Ditto	Ditto	Aeronca	NC3596E	90	0	Hazil & Sis
6/28/53	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	130	0	Stybursky, Ritchie, Dutch
7/3/53	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	Dort, could see Chicago
7/9/53	Ditto	Ditto	Piper J3	NC98428	55	0	Arnold, at home
Carry					5300	1440	
Totals					7880	1440	

Date	Flight from	Flight to	Aircraft	Tail #	Solo Time	Dual Time	Comments
7/19/53	Ditto	Ditto	Cessna 140	N89559	60	0	Guy, B. Ritchie
7/30/53	Ditto	Ditto	Aeronca	NC3596E	55	0	Al Boyd, B. Ritchie
8/9/53	Ditto	Ditto	Piper J3	NC42729	60	0	B. Richie, Dutch
8/9/53	Ditto	Ditto	Cessna 140	N89559	50	0	Morton Hampton
8/16/53	Ditto	Ditto	Piper J3	NC42729	40	0	Ritchie, Dutch
8/17/53	Ditto	Lansing	Aeronca	NC3596E	100	0	Dutch to MSC, Art Davis Airport
8/17/53	Lansing	B. Harbor	Ditto	Ditto	90	0	Return

8/23/53	B. Harbor	Local	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	B. Ritchie
9/11/53	Ditto	Lansing	Ditto	Ditto	90	0	Ray Taylor
9/11/53	Lansing	B. Harbor	Ditto	Ditto	105	0	Return
9/27/53	B. Harbor	Local	Ditto	Ditto	105	0	M. Hauch, D. Hallman
10/4/53	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	W. Zeiger
10/11/53	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	Alice Schaeffer
10/17/53	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	Kids
10/25/53	Ditto	Ditto	Cessna 140	N89559	60	0	Woodie
11/1/53	Mich. Cty.	Local	PA22	N3366A	15	45	Tri Pacer Check Ride
11/1/53	B. Harbor	Local	Aeronca	NC3596E	60	0	B. Ritchie
11/28/53	Mich. Cty.	Local	PA22	N3366A	30	0	Dutch
12/10/53	B. Harbor	Local	Aeronca	NC3596E	30	0	Solo
12/13/53	Ditto	Ditto	Cessna 140	N89559	20	0	Arnold
12/27/53	Mich. Cty.	Local	PA22	N3366A	55	0	Dutch, Mitchell, Guy, Jerry
1/31/54	B. Harbor	Local	Aeronca	NC3586E	65	0	Don Hallman
2/7/54	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	Dutch, Wolf
2/7/54	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	55	0	D. Hallman
2/8/54	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	55	0	K. Kolberg
2/14/54	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	D. Hallman, Dale Hampton
3/7/54	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	90	0	Hallman, Guy
3/21/54	Ditto	Ditto	Cessna 140	N89559	60	0	Ditto
3/21/54	Ditto	Ditto	Piper J3	NC42729	30	0	Ditto
4/30/54	Ditto	Ditto	Aeronca	NC3586E	75	0	Ditto
5/9/54	Ditto	Lansing	Ditto	Ditto	90	0	Dutch to college strip
5/9/54	Lansing	B. Harbor	Ditto	Ditto	97	0	Aero Manor to Home
6/6/54	Mich. Cty.	Local	PA22	N3366A	35	0	Guy, Carol
7/20/54	B. Harbor	Local	Aeronca	NC3596E	15	0	Hallman
8/1/54	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	150	0	Free Rides
8/12/54	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	65	0	Dutch
9/7/54	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	35	0	(Molydoon)
9/12/54	Mich. Cty.	Local	PA22	N3513A	65	0	Crosbys
9/20/54	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	50	0	Dutch, 11,200 ft.
10/17/54	B. Harbor	Local	Aeronca	NC3596E	65	0	Wes Zeiger
4/3/55	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	Martin Hauch
Carry					7880	1440	
Total					10422	1485	

Date	Flight from	Flight to	Aircraft	Tail #	Solo Time	Dual Time	Comments
10/24/54	Niles	Local	PA12	NC7728H	25	0	Dort and Gary
11/7/54	B. Harbor	Local	Aeronca	NC3596E	15	0	Don Hallman
12/31/54	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	35	0	Dutch
2/10/55	Ditto	Ditto	Cessna 140	N89559	40	0	Cherry Pie Contest
3/13/55	Ditto	Ditto	Aeronca	NC3596E	30	0	Dutch
4/3/55	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	Martin Hauch
4/9/55	Home	Local	Piper J3	N42729	20	0	Solo? Arnold's Cub
4/12/55	Home	B. Harbor	Ditto	Ditto	15	0	Carol
5/15/55	B. Harbor	Local	Cessna 140	N89559	40	0	John Payne

5/19/55	Home	Local	Piper J3	N42729	15	0	Guy, Carol
5/26/55	Home	B. Harbor	Ditto	Ditto	20	0	Guy
6/15/55	Home	Local	Ditto	Ditto	15	0	Guy
7/10/55	Niles	Local	Ditto	N88073	60	0	Albert Harfert
7/25/55	Ditto	Ditto	Cessna 140	NC4258N	15	0	Don Hallman
8/7/55	Ditto	Ditto	Piper J3	N88073	45	0	Strefling Girls
8/9/55	Home	Local	Ditto	N42729	30	0	Arnold
9/11/55	Home	Niles	Ditto	Ditto	20	0	Dutch
9/11/55	Niles	Home	Ditto	Ditto	50	0	Dutch
10/8/55	Kalamazoo	Local	Aeronca Champ	N83128	40	0	Harmon Spears
10/15/55	Ann Arbor	Local	Piper J3	N70832	40	0	Harmon Spears
2/4/56	Home	Local	Ditto	N42729	40	0	Guy, Carol, Jerry H., Dutch
4/15/56	Mich. Cty.	Home	Ditto	Ditto	20	0	
5/20/56	Ditto	Local	PA22	N3579A	30	0	Solo
6/9/56	Home	Local	Piper J3	N42729	20	0	Carol and Gary
9/8/56	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	30	0	
10/19/56	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	30	0	Guy, one loop
10/20/56	Ann Arbor	Local	Ditto	NC7232H	30	0	Harmon Spears
11/56	Mich. Cty.	Home	Ditto	N42729	35	0	Sis and Gary
12/31/56	Home	Local	Ditto	Ditto	35	0	Dutch, loops & spins
3/1/57	Mich. Cty.	Local	PA22	N3513A	30	0	Solo
3/3/57	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	NC70310	65	0	Geo. Zelke, L. Hauch, Lucille Hauch
3/10/57	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	N3513A	60	0	Dorothy Johnson, Mr Johnson, Don
5/29/57	Mich. Cty	Lansing	Ditto	Ditto	70	0	Mich. St. for Dutch and Cork Ott
5/29/57	Lansing	Mich. Cty	Ditto	Ditto	90	0	Return
8/20/57	Mich. Cty.	Local	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	Hal Leet
1/19/58	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Nc70301	85	0	Check ride, Crawford, Dutch and ???
5/18/58	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	N3579A	65	0	Kids & Howard Connally
7/20/58	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	N3513A	60	0	B. Ritchie & Kids
9/7/58	Niles	Ditto	Ditto	N4775A	60	0	Harry Coope
Carry					10422	1485	
Totals					11967	1485	

Date	Flight from	Flight to	Aircraft	Tail #	Solo Time	Dual Time	Comments
9/28/58	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	65	0	Crosbys
10/5/58	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	65	0	Gnodtke, Dort, Kids
10/19/58	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	55	0	Sis, Dort, Carol, Mitchell, Mooney?
10/26/58	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	55	0	Al boyd, Meryl Phillippi and son
8/2/59	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	25	0	5 takeoffs and landings
8/9/59	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	50	0	Carol, Pat Mooney, Sam Barker
8/16/59	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	Laverne, Guy, Darlene, Dutch, Dort, Gary, Rick
8/23/59	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	75	0	L. Donner, B. Crosby, H. Connley

	Ditto	Ditto	Aeronca Champ	N81569	70	0	Home strip solo
9/19/59	Home	Local	Aeronca Champ	N81569	50	0	Home strip, Guy
9/25/59	Niles	Local	PA22	N4775A	90	0	Curtis Vellman family
10/59	Home	Local	Aeronca Champ	N31569	180	0	Series of flights
11/5/59	Home	Local	Ditto	Ditto	40	0	Solo
12/13/59	Niles	Local	PA22	N4775A	65	0	Ted Fleischer, Bill Guether, Bill Dinges
9/9/60	Twin Falls, ID	Local	Super Cub		70	0	Dort
10/18/61	Niles	Local	PA22	N7437D	35	0	Solo, 6, takeoffs/landings
10/22/61	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	Marie G., John Wansco, B. Kolberg
11/26/61	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	100	0	Gene & friends, Kings
2/4/62	Niles	Local	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	Steckelbergs
3/4/62	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	50	0	Dolson's and Lutcinger
3/18/62	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	N. Gnodtke & friends
5/6/62	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	B. Crosby, L. Donner & ???
7/6/62	Niles	Mich. Cty	Ditto	Ditto	65	0	Soil Consvn. Bd.
7/6/62	Mich. Cty.	Niles	Ditto	Ditto	65	0	Ditto
7/23/62	Niles	Local	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	Don Knutson, 2 Crosbys
7/27/62	Niles	Mich. Cty	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	Don ?, Dale Brown, L. Graves
8/22/62	Niles	Local	Ditto	Ditto	70	0	Phil, Vera, Dort
8/26/62	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	65	0	Don Knouse & ?
9/9/62	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	55	0	Gene Watson
19/7/62	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	N7437D	65	0	Grace Decker, Benton Harbor
10/14/62	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	65	0	Connley, Donner, Crosby, Mich. Cty
10/14/62	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	Root Dawlson
Carry					11967	1485	
Totals					14037	1485	

Date	Flight from	Flight to	Aircraft	Tail #	Solo Time	Dual Time	Comments
10/21/62	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	85	0	George Schroeder & son, Judy Godalac, Doc Freidberg
10/30/62	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	35	0	Streflings & Linda Geik
11/11/62	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	Doris Schroeder, Linda, sister
11/18/62	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	Oscar Regh family
11/25/62	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	Wes zeiger & boys
12/2/62	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	John wyec & Vitek
12/2/62	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	Jack Kribbs, Ralph Schopbach, Priest
3/15/63	B. Harbor	Local	Cessna 172	N7096A	40	20	Check and solo
5/12/63	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	65	0	Ralph Schopback
6/27/63	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	Dutch, Carol, Dave
7/4/63	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	Ralph Schopback
7/21/63	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	Dort, Gary, Rick

7/29/63	Niles	Local	PA22	N7437D	60	0	Gene, Phyllis, Linda Geik
8/1/63	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	Don Knudtson family
8/4/63	S. Haven	Ditto	Cessna 172	N8934B	90	0	Jump plane series of flights
8/11/63	B. Harbor	Ditto	Ditto	N7096A	65	0	Crosby, Zeigers
8/18/63	S. Haven	Ditto	Ditto	N8934B	150	0	Jump plane flights
10/2/63	Three Oaks	South Bend	Cessna 182	N2120G	75	0	Landings and check out
10/6/63	Ditto	Local	Ditto	Ditto	50	0	Abrahansens
10/6/63	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	30	0	Girlus Geik
10/6/63	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	20	0	Carol boyfriends
10/12/63	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	30	0	Dort and Kids
10/13/63	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	65	0	Phil, Raymond
10/13/63	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	90	0	Martells, Jelineks, Trapps
10/20/63	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	110	0	Kings, Oscar Keen
10/27/63	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	Horak, Schopbacks
10/27/63	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	90	0	Crosby Lee, Crosby Sr.
11/3/63	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	70	0	Festival Winner, H. Coupe family
11/10/63	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	Marvin Lozmack, Bill Corblic
11/24/63	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	80	0	Crosbys & friends
12/26/63	B. Harbor	Local	Cessna 172	N7096A	45	0	Dutch and Guy
2/9/64	Three Oaks	Local	Ditto	N8755B	30	0	Allan Trapp, Gene S., Carol S.
3/22/64	B. Harbor	Ditto	Ditto	N7096A	35	0	Miss Kuiper, Horak
5/17/64	Three Oaks	Local	Ditto	N8755B	30	0	Tennis Wood ???
5/17/64	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	30	0	Dort and Kids
Carry					14037	1485	
Totals					16167	1505	

Date	Flight from	Flight to	Aircraft	Tail #	Solo Time	Dual Time	Comments
6/7/64	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	35	0	Zeiger & Mrs. Priest
6/20/64	Ditto	Ditto	Cessna 175	N6701E	30	0	Whittakers
7/19/64	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	90	0	M. Francis & family
7/21/64	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	150	0	Milton Francis & family, Lozmacks
8/2/64	Ditto	Ditto	Cessna Skyhawk	N7715T	90	0	T. Freyer, Jim Hauch, Connley, Dingeses
8/4/64	Ditto	Jackson	Cessna 172	N5519T	75	0	Dort, Ed & M Jelinek
8/4/64	Jackson	Three Oaks	Ditto	Ditto	65	0	Return
8/6/64	Three Oaks	Local	Cessna 175	N6701E	45	0	Kuiper & guests
8/23/64	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	DITTO	60	0	Paynes, R. Schopb, H Shermak

8/9/64	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	210	0	Don Lee, Sherrill, Bill Connley, Hoadley, R. Trapp
9/6/64	Ditto	Ditto	Cessna 175	N76701E	195	0	Gnodtke, Tillie Frieyer, M. Lee, Dinges
9/13/64	Ditto	Ditto	Cessna 172	N7715T	75	0	S. Francis, Crosbys, Sutton
9/27/64	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	40	0	Mary Gnudtke, Coupes
10/4/64	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	60	0	H. Sauser, L. Jannasch, Ongsted
10/11/64	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	255	0	Series of flights
10/14/64	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	30	0	Dort, Kids
10/18/64	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	100	0	Mrs. Don Dinges & son, Gazette
10/25/64	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	150	0	
11/8/64	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	195	0	Mike Heckathorne, Volman, Brenda Schuck, Jenkins, Martell
11/15/64	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	45	0	Coupes
11/22/64	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	55	0	Whittakers
12/5/64	Ditto	Ditto	Cessna 182			15	Check Ride
12/6/64	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto		35	0	Kaspers
12/27/64	Ditto	Ditto	Cessna 172	N7715D	85	0	Whittakers, Tappans
12/27/64	Ditto	Ditto	Cessna 182		25	0	Nights & Crosbys
1/3/65	Ditto	Ditto	Cessna 172	N5519T	105	0	Joe Mikel, Dort and Kids
2/14/65	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	45	0	Whittakers & ????
Carry					16167	1485	
Totals					16462	1500	

Dorothy O'Barton Wirth | 1911-2008

Dorothy O'Barton was born on November 10, 1911, the third child of H. Eather and Clara O'Barton[211]. She was born in the small town of New Buffalo during the time when her father was there working temporarily on a railroad project. After the project was completed, her family returned to their family home located on Flynn Road about ¼ miles north of the Sawyer New Troy Road where Dorothy grew up with her siblings Floyd, Bernice, Lyle, Gerald and Leadelle. Dorothy is shown in the center of the colorized photo below along with her sister Bernice, her brother Floyd and their family dog "Pup". This is the earliest retained photo of Dorothy and was copied from a large oval portrait kept by the family.

Dorothy's life was typical for a young girl in those days. She characterized herself as a tomboy, climbing trees and visiting with her extended family that lived nearby. She had an especially close relationship with her cousin Vera who lived about 2 miles away as did her maternal grandparents Eliza and Jeff Brant. Dorothy often walked there to visit her grandmother and play

[211] Dorothy's birth certificate is shown in the appendix

with Vera. She told many times of their adventures in the woods and sand dunes and her interest in nature that developed from those times. She and Vera would occasionally fall in a stream or tear their dress and would go to their grandmother's to get repairs before returning to Vera's home.

Dorothy loved her mother, but her father held a very special place in her heart. Being the tomboy, she shadowed her father when he was home, working around their small farm. They raised chickens, geese and other farm animals. To catch the goose and weigh it, her father would have her dress in a heavy jacket and torment the goose. The goose would then chase her, grab her jacket and hold on so that he father could grab it and weigh it. These and other tales of her childhood are given in her own words in "Personal Reflections by Dorothy O'Barton-Wirth" in the appendix to this chapter. Dorothy's childhood was full of happy times.

Dorothy shared other interesting memories with her family. Her Grandfather Nicholas O'Barton (aka Aubertin) emigrated from France and lived with the family until he died March 8, 1918. On his deathbed, he was told that Allied forces were making progress against German forces and could retake his homeland. He replied that now that his homeland of Alsace Lorraine would be back in French control, he could die in peace. Later, November 11, 1918, all the church bells were ringing and Dorothy ran to the church to see what was happening. She was told that WWI was over. One of the adults lifted her so she could reach the bell rope, and she rang the bell of her family church of which her grandmother Susan Wirt-O'Barton was a founding member.

While most of her memories of her childhood are good ones, there was a very bad time in her life when she was about 10 years old. Her three brothers Floyd, Lyle and Gerald all contacted scarlet fever and died within 4 months of each other in 1921. Gerald, the youngest, was most vulnerable and died at age 15 months, followed by Floyd (15) and Lyle (3). Dorothy recalls this time with sadness, especially for the loss of Lyle. Years later, in 1935, when her son John was born, she gave him the middle name Lyle in memory of her young brother. In the "special studies" folder[212] accompanying this genealogy there is write-up about stroller belonging to Lyle which Dorothy retained until her death.

Dorothy attended Sawyer Public School through the first half of the 8th grade and then transferred to New Troy High School. A photo of the students in this two room school, taken in 1925 when Dorothy was in 8th grade, is shown below. Dorothy is shown in the left end of the second row from the top. The teacher was Nora Cooks.

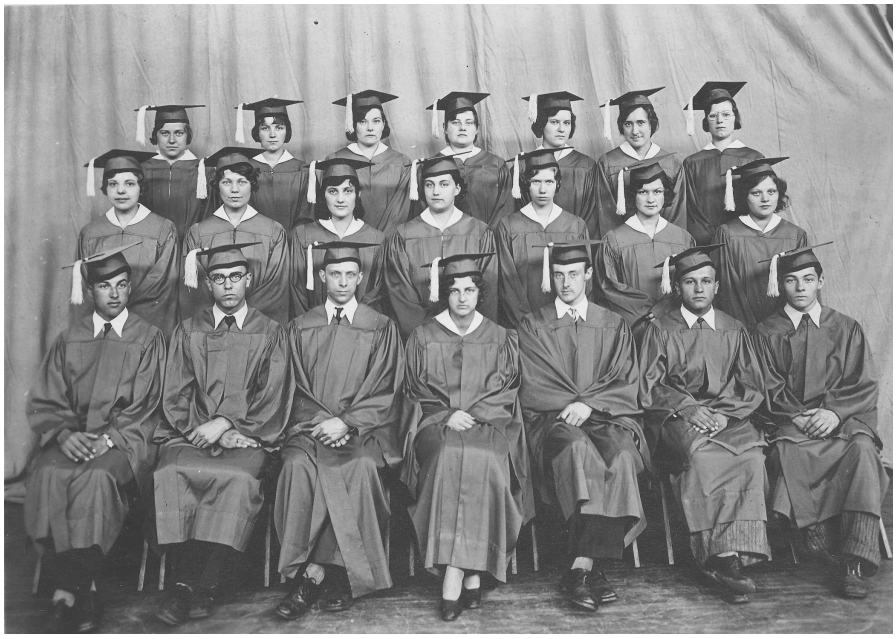
[212] The WIRTH folder accompanying this genealogy contains a SPECIAL STUDIES folder which, in turn, contains a folder LYLE'S SCOOTER, among several studies of separate genealogy subjects.

While her cousin Vera Spaulding attended a different elementary school, they both transferred to New Troy School during the middle of their 8th grade so as to avoid taking the state exams for admission to the high school. While a freshman at New Troy, she suffered an appendicitis attack and her appendix ruptured on the way to the hospital. She almost died of peritonitis. She was there for seven weeks and at home recuperating for an additional three weeks.

At New Troy, Dorothy continued her close relationship with her cousin Vera. Vera became interested in Phil Sexton, a young man from Sawyer and began dating him in their sophomore year. Phil and Clarence Wirth became good friends and so it was natural for Dorothy to get to know Clarence through Vera and Phil. Phil had a Ford car and the four of them would drive around during noon hours or after school. They also strolled about the New Troy area during lunch hours, visiting the Galien River and the grist mill area. Clarence and Dorothy's romance became more serious in their junior year[213] and culminated in their marriage later in 1933.

After graduation in 1930, Dorothy attended Berrien County Normal located in Bridgman, Michigan. The county normal schools were established to supply temporary accreditation of teachers for the burgeoning school systems in Michigan. The class was 1 year in duration and was held in different towns around Berrien County. After accreditation, Dorothy taught for three years (1931-1934) at Coveny School, a one-room school located in Buchanan Township east of Glendora. The class photo of her graduation from County Normal is shown below, followed by two of her Coveny School student classes from 1933 and 1934. Her teaching skills were put to good use later as she tutored her 5 children during their school years and motivated all her children to attend college.

[213] See Dorothy's personal reflections in the appendix



In the County Normal graduation photo above, Dorothy is shown second from the right in the upper row. Phil Sexton is shown on the left in the first row. Dorothy's Coveny School student photos are below: Class of '33 on the left, class of '34 on the right.

Clarence and Dorothy continued their romance and on July 30, 1933, they married[214]. The reception was held in Buchanan at the home of Lois Watson, Clarence's sister, as shown below. Clarence was very sick with the flu but made it through the wedding and the honeymoon at Mammoth Cave, KY.

[214] A copy of their marriage certificate is in an accompanying biography of Clarence Wirth.

After marriage, they moved into the Wirth home with Clarence's parents, Otis and Rosemond. However, earlier in her married life, Rosemond was not terribly happy living with Otis's mother saying, "There is not enough room in any home for two women." She insisted that she and Otis move to a rental home and finally to their own home located just south of the Brethren Church in New Troy. Otis, and less frequently, Rosemond then commuted to the farm on weekdays with Otis helping with the farming and Rosemond with housework, gardening, canning, and eventually children.

Family finances were difficult for Clarence and Dorothy during all but the later years of their marriage. Dorothy became expert at living on a small budget. She sewed, canned food, and produced great meals from what was available from her garden or Pantry. In the 1930s, harvesting was a community affair with farmers helping each other with large meals being served to tens of hungry mouths: a full case of strawberries might be served for strawberry shortcake. Dorothy joined the Women's Country Club composed of the wives of local farmers. This group provided a social outlet for the farming community as well as some philanthropic contributions during difficult times. Dorothy was the only active surviving member[215] when she died in 2008.

Through the late 1930s and 1940s, Clarence and Dorothy began their family with John born in 1935, Guy in 1940 and Carol in 1943. These were war years and times were difficult financially as well. In addition to farming, Clarence worked nights at Clark Equipment Company. Dorothy shouldered the double duty of child rearing, canning, etc. as well as taking care of some of the livestock. Because she had to keep the house quiet in the early mornings while Clarence slept, she took the children with her while she hoed in the garden. "I had the very best garden of my life during those years," she recalled. Clarence's mother, Rosemond, suffered from high blood pressure and had a series of strokes which ultimately took her life in 1947. Dorothy took care of her during this time,

[215] See the Women's Country Club folder contained in the Wirth folder accompanying this genealogy

helping her bathe and giving comfort. After Rosemond passed away, Clarence's father, Otis, moved into the home for three years, adding to Dorothy's responsibility.

While life was sometimes difficult, Dorothy retained a sense of humor and trickery. She loved to play practical jokes. The Wirth home had a woodshed that was part of the house and served as access to the basement. It had a dirt floor with a center walkway that lead from a door across the floor and then a 180 degree turn down stairs to the basement. The basement had a large furnace which in winters Clarence would stoke every evening and morning. One evening after fixing the fire, Dorothy hid in the boxes, papers and other debris that had accumulated on the dirt floor beside the walkway. When Clarence got up the stairs and on the walkway, she started growling, rustling the papers and jumped out at him. He turned ashen white and she became very scared that he would have a heart attack. "Don't you ever do that again, Clarence said."

Another time when Clarence was reading a story to the children about a pack of wolves that was stalking a hunter in the wilderness, Dorothy quietly hid behind a drape and, at the scariest part of the story, growled and crawled rapidly through the drape. Clarence jumped and dropped the magazine and the children let out screams. Dorothy got a large laugh out of her trickery.

Then, in the early 1950s, John and one of his friends, Vic Baney, were cruising back and forth on the road in front of the house in the 1931 Chevrolet and wouldn't give Guy a ride. Dorothy said to Guy, "Here, take this 2 quart pan, fill it with water and when they go by, throw the water on them." So, Guy hid in tall weeds beside the road. John saw him and drove close to that side of the road. Guy stood and delivered the water squarely through the open driver's side window. But John, the intended target, ducked and the water hit Vic directly in the face. That elicited strongly worded threats from the car and Guy broke for the house. In the house, Dorothy hid Guy in a closet and denied knowing anything when John and Vic came steaming inside. She retold this story many times over the years and always included, with glee, her part in the trickery. Her enjoyment of and aptitude for such events likely came from her childhood. Her father and Uncle Harry Spaulding were recognized as very good storytellers in an era when story telling was an appreciated art form practiced at family and social gatherings. The stories they told were funny and usually involved some practical joke.

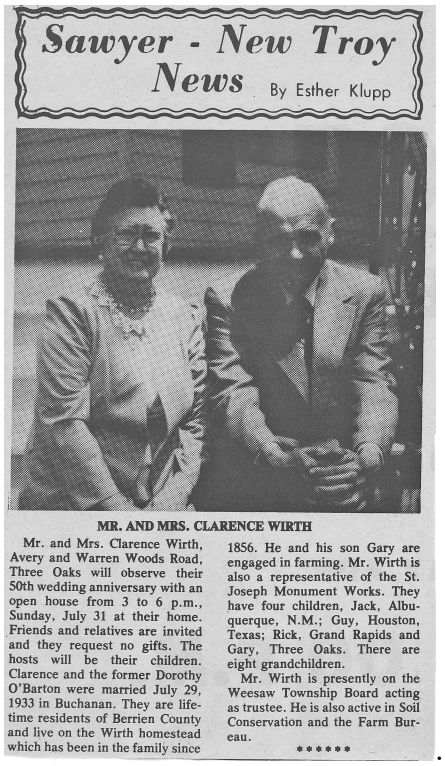
Dorothy and Clarence added to their family in 1953 with the birth of Gary and in 1955 with the birth of Rick. Now, Dorothy had two infants to rear as well as helping Carol and Guy as they traversed their high school years. In 1956, Rick was diagnosed with polio. He required periodic hospitalization and hourly messages in the hope of reducing the paralysis to his legs. In addition, her older children graduated from high school, got married and entered college. Thus began several years of gratifying but demanding activity which nearly led to a nervous breakdown.

Carol, as her only daughter, held a special place in Dorothy's heart. And her heart was surely broken when Carol was diagnosed with breast cancer at age 21. Breast cancer at that age was almost unheard of. By the time it was positively diagnosed, it had

metastasized. Carol died on December 24, 1972. The loss was never far from Dorothy's mind. She often commented that sons are great, but daughters are special.

In about 1977, Clarence, Gary and Rick attended the air show in Oshkosh, WI and were smitten with ultralight aircraft. Clarence and Gary purchased a Weedhopper ultralight, and then built a hanger in which to store it. Dorothy demanded equal consideration, and bought an electronic organ which she always wanted. She is shown below at the keyboard. It provided relaxation and recreation for many years.

In 1983, Clarence and Dorothy celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and their children sponsored a party at the farm. All the family was there along with many guests who knew them over the past decades. Announcements and a photo of them are shown below.



Sawyer - New Troy News By Esther Klupp

MR. AND MRS. CLARENCE WIRTH

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Wirth, Avery and Warren Woods Road, Three Oaks will observe their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house from 3 to 6 p.m., Sunday, July 31 at their home. Friends and relatives are invited and they request no gifts. The hosts will be their children. Clarence and the former Dorothy O'Barton were married July 29, 1933 in Buchanan. They are lifetime residents of Berrien County and live on the Wirth homestead which has been in the family since 1856. He and his son Gary are engaged in farming. Mr. Wirth is also a representative of the St. Joseph Monument Works. They have four children, Jack, Albuquerque, N.M.; Guy, Houston, Texas; Rick, Grand Rapids and Gary, Three Oaks. There are eight grandchildren.

Mr. Wirth is presently on the Weesaw Township Board acting as trustee. He is also active in Soil Conservation and the Farm Bureau.

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Clarence was suffering from prostate cancer during this period and subsequently died of a stroke in 1984. His loss was difficult, but life continued apace for nearly a decade. Her son Gary was at home and continued the family farming operation. Dorothy socialized with her sister Bernice and became active in a local quilting club. She also became very active as the leader of the Women's Country Club, initiating meetings and looking for new members.

In 1992, her son Gary married and started his own family. While this began a lonesome period in Dorothy's life, the addition of granddaughters Sarah and Jenny provided a continued outlet for the "twinkle in her eye." In the 2000s, she and her friend/helper Leota Frehling loved to put on parties for Sarah and Jenny as depicted in this photo of Dorothy putting on a pirate's party.

Tragedy struck once again in Dorothy's life. Her youngest son, Rick, was killed in a private plane accident in 1996. Rick was a passenger/pilot in a small plane flown by an instructor when it crashed after making a low pass over the field of an acquaintance.

Dorothy prided herself in maintaining her home as long as she was physically able. She is shown here mowing her lawn at age 92. Her friend and helper Leota visited and stayed over many days to aid in the housework and provide companionship. She drove herself and Leota to doctor visits and out for lunch for many years, with luncheon trips frequently ending up in "Barodee."

Age finally began to catch up with Dorothy and after a stay in the hospital it was determined that she could no longer live alone even with Leota's help. She entered an assisted living facility (Caretel) in St. Joseph in 2006. On November 10, 2007, Dorothy celebrated her 96th birthday with Phil and Vera Sexton (left in the photo below), Jack and Alice Chestnut (Jack on far right), sons John and Gary (center), and not shown Gary's family, and Jack's wife and daughter's family. A close-up of her at the party is in the appendix. Dorothy passes away on January 1, 2008 and is buried in New Troy Cemetery beside her husband Clarence. Her death certificate is shown in the appendix.

Dorothy's funeral was held at the Christian United Church of Christ in Sawyer, MI, the church founded by her grandmother, attended by her parents and attended periodically by Dorothy from childhood until her death. At the conclusion of the service, several of Dorothy's grandchildren rang the bell of her church, the same bell she had rung 87 years earlier at the conclusion of WWI.

"….send not to know for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee[216]," Dorothy.

[216] John Donne, circa 1600

APPENDIX

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
County of Berrien,) ss.
St. Joseph, Michigan)

CERTIFIED COPY OF RECORD OF BIRTH

I, FRANK X. DUERR, JR., Clerk of the County of Berrien, and of the Circuit Court thereof, the same being a Court of Record having a Seal, do hereby certify that the following is a copy of the Record of Birth of Dorothy O'Barton now remaining in my office, and of the whole thereof, viz:

CHILD

DATE OF BIRTH MONTH	DAY	YEAR	SURNAME AND CHRISTIAN NAME, IF ONE BE GIVEN	MALE OR FEMALE	WHITE, BLACK, MULATTO, ETC.	
Nov	10	1911	O'Barton,Dorothy	Fe	White	

BIRTH PLACE	RECORD NO.	LOCAL FILE NO.	DATE OF RECORD
New Buffalo,Michigan	F-386	692	Jan 6,1912

PARENTS

FULL NAME OF EACH	RESIDENCE	BIRTH PLACE OF EACH
Eather O'Barton	New Buffalo,Mich	Michigan.
Clara Brant	" " "	Michigan.

Occupation of Father R.R.Section Foreman

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Circuit Court, the 15th day of December A. D. 19 53

Frank X. Duerr, Jr. Clerk.
FRANK X. DUERR, JR.

By Deputy Clerk.

FORM NO. M-800 DOUBLEDAY BROS. & CO., KALAMAZOO, MICH. 330619

Dorothy at her 96th birthday party

LF
CF 4

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

STATE FILE NUMBER 2883827

1. DECEDENT'S NAME (First, Middle, Last)	2. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year)	3. SEX	4. DATE OF DEATH (Month, Day, Year)
DOROTHY WIRTH	November 10,1911	Female	January 1, 2008

5. NAME AT BIRTH OR OTHER NAME USED FOR PERSONAL BUSINESS (Include AKA's if any)	6a. AGE - Last Birthday (Years)	6b. UNDER 1 YEAR: MONTHS / DAYS	6c. UNDER 1 DAY: HOURS / MINUTES
Dorothy O'Barton	96		

7a. LOCATION OF DEATH (Enter place officially pronounced dead in 7a, 7b, 7c) HOSPITAL OR OTHER INSTITUTION - Name (if not in either, give street and number and zip code)	7b. CITY, VILLAGE, OR TOWNSHIP OF DEATH	7c. COUNTY OF DEATH
Caretel Inns of Lakeland	Royalton Township	Berrien

8a. CURRENT RESIDENCE - STATE	8b. COUNTY	8c. LOCALITY (check the box that describes the location)	8d. STREET AND NUMBER (Include Apt. No. if applicable)
Michigan	Berrien	☐ CITY OR VILLAGE ☒ TOWNSHIP ☐ UNINCORPORATED PLACE (inside limits of) Weesaw	15405 Mill Road

8e. ZIP CODE	9. BIRTHPLACE (City and State or Country)	10. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	11. DECEDENT'S EDUCATION - What is the highest degree or level of school completed at the time of death?
49128	New Buffalo, Michigan	373 54 4553	Some College

12. RACE - American Indian, White, Black, etc. (If Asian, give nationality, ie. Chinese, Filipino, Asian Indian, etc.) (Enter all that apply)	13a. ANCESTRY - Mexican, Cuban, Arab, African, English, French, Dutch, etc. (Enter all that apply) If American Indian race, enter principal tribe	13b. HISPANIC ORIGIN (Yes or No)	14. WAS DECEDENT EVER IN THE U.S. ARMED FORCES? (yes or no)
White	French / German / English	No	No

15. USUAL OCCUPATION Give kind of work done during most of working life. Do not use retired.	16. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY	17. MARITAL STATUS - Married, Never Married, Widowed, Divorced (Specify)	18. NAME OF SURVIVING SPOUSE (If wife, give name before first married)
Homemaker	Own Home	Widowed	

19. FATHER'S NAME (First, Middle, Last)	20. MOTHER'S NAME BEFORE FIRST MARRIED (First, Middle, Last)
Herbert Eather O'Barton	Clara Brant

21a. INFORMANT'S NAME (Type/Print)	21b. RELATIONSHIP TO DECEDENT	21c. MAILING ADDRESS (Street and Number or Rural Route Number, City or Village, State, Zip Code)
John Wirth	Son	1463 Bluebell Dr. N.E., Albuquerque, NM. 87122

22. METHOD OF DISPOSITION Burial, Cremation, Entombment, Donation, Removal, Storage (Specify)	23a. PLACE OF DISPOSITION (Name of Cemetery, Crematory, or other location)	23b. LOCATION - City or Village, State
Burial	New Troy Cemetery	Weesaw Twp, Michigan

24. SIGNATURE OF MORTUARY SCIENCE LICENSEE	25. LICENSE NUMBER (of Licensee)	26. NAME AND ADDRESS OF FUNERAL FACILITY
[signature]	6153	Pobocik Funeral Home Connelly-Noble Chapel 106 East Ash Street, Three Oaks, MI. 49128

27a. CERTIFIER (Check only one)
- ☒ Certifying Physician - To the best of my knowledge, death occurred due to the (cause)s and manner stated.
- ☐ Medical Examiner - On the basis of examination, and/or investigation, in my opinion, death occurred at the time, data, and place, and due to the cause(s) and manner stated.

Signature and Title [signature]

28a. ACTUAL OR PRESUMED TIME OF DEATH	28b. PRONOUNCED DEAD ON (Mo. Day Yr.)	28c. TIME PRONOUNCED DEAD
8:53 A M	January 1, 2008	8:53 A M

29. MEDICAL EXAMINER CONTACTED? (Yes or No)	30. PLACE OF DEATH (Home, Hospice, Nursing Home, Hospital, Ambulance) (Specify)	31. IF HOSPITAL, Inpatient, Outpatient, Emergency Room, DOA (Specify)
No	Nursing Home	

27b. DATE SIGNED (Mo. Day, Yr.)	27c. LICENSE NUMBER	32. MEDICAL EXAMINER'S CASE NUMBER (if applicable)	33. NAME OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN IF OTHER THAN CERTIFIER (Type or Print)
January 2 2008	4301042561		

34. NAME AND ADDRESS OF CERTIFYING PHYSICIAN (Type or Print)
Keith VanOosterhout, M.D., 6390 Dean's Hill Road, Berrien Center, MI. 49102

35a. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE	35b. DATE FILED (Month, Day, Year)
M. Louise Stine ay	January 2, 2008

36. PART I. Enter the chain of events - diseases, injuries, or complications - that directly caused the death. DO NOT enter terminal events such as cardiac arrest, respiratory arrest, or ventricular fibrillation without showing the etiology. Enter only one cause on a line.

		Approximate Interval Between Onset and Death
If diabetes was an immediate, underlying or contributing cause of death be sure to record diabetes in either Part I or Part II of the cause of death section, as appropriate.		
IMMEDIATE CAUSE (Final disease or condition resulting in death)	a. congestive heart failure — DUE TO (OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF)	months
	b. critical aortic stenosis — DUE TO (OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF)	years
Sequentially list conditions, IF ANY, leading to the cause listed on line a. Enter the UNDERLYING CAUSE (disease or injury that initiated the events resulting in death) LAST	c. — DUE TO (OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF)	
	d.	

PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS contributing to death but not resulting in the underlying cause given in Part I.
chronic atrial fibrillation cardiomyopathy

37. DID TOBACCO USE CONTRIBUTE TO DEATH?	38. IF FEMALE:
☐ Yes ☐ Probably ☒ No ☐ Unknown	☒ Not pregnant within past year ☐ Pregnant at time of death ☐ Not pregnant, but pregnant within 42 days of death ☐ Not pregnant, but pregnant 43 days to 1 year before death ☐ Unknown if pregnant within the past year

39. MANNER OF DEATH - Accident, Suicide, Homicide, Natural, Indeterminate or Pending (Specify)	40a. WAS AN AUTOPSY PERFORMED? (Yes or No)	40b. WERE AUTOPSY FINDINGS AVAILABLE PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF CAUSE OF DEATH? (Yes or No)
Natural	No	

41a. DATE OF INJURY (Mo., Day, Yr.)	41b. TIME OF INJURY	41c. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED
	M	

41d. INJURY AT WORK (Yes or No)	41e. PLACE OF INJURY - At home, farm, street, construction site	41f. IF TRANSPORTATION INJURY - Driver/Operator	41g. LOCATION - Street or RFD No.	City, Village or Twp.	State

Dorothy Wirth Obituary

POBOCIK FUNERAL HOME — Connelly - Noble Chapel

CHRIS S. POBOCIK, DIRECTOR
LINDA R. POBOCIK, OFFICE MANAGER

106 EAST ASH STREET • P. O. BOX 56
THREE OAKS, MI 49128
TEL: 269/756-3831 • FAX: 269/756-5016
www.pobocik.com

Weesaw Township–Dorothy Wirth, 96, of Weesaw Township, Michigan died Tuesday, January 1, 2008 at Caretal Inns of Lakeland.

Mrs. Wirth was born November 10, 1911 in New Buffalo, Michigan to Eather and Clara (Brant) O'Barton. and grew up in Sawyer, Michigan. When she was a young girl, she rang the bell at the Christian United Church of Christ in Sawyer signifying the end of WWI and recently had the opportunity to ring that bell again. In 1930 she was a member of the second graduating class of New Troy High School and continued her education at Berrien County Normal, earning her teaching certificate. She married Clarence Wirth in Buchanan, Michigan on July 29, 1933 and taught at Coveney School from 1932 until 1934. Mrs. Wirth enjoyed cooking, canning, gardening, playing the organ and caring for her family. She was an excellent cook and could easily create a meal for her family or a meal for 40 farm hands.

Survivors include her children, John "Jack" and wife, Laverne Schultz of Albuquerque, New Mexico; Guy and wife, Darlene Barker of Houston, Texas and Gary and wife, Jill McConnell of St. Joseph, Michigan; 11 grandchildren; 7 great grandchildren, daughter-in-law, Kathy Henry Wilson of Charlotte, Michigan; and her nephew, William Tucker and wife, Melissa Woods of St. Joseph. Her husband, Clarence, preceded her in death in 1984 after 51 years of marriage. She was also preceded in death by her daughter, Carol and her husband, David Metz; son Rick; sisters, Bernice and husband, Roy Lagerquist and Leodelle and husband, William Tucker, and her brothers, Floyd, Lyle and Gerald.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, January 5, 2008 at the Christian United Church of Christ in Sawyer with Pastor Carole VanderLinden officiating. Interment will follow at New Troy Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm on Friday at Pobocik Funeral Home, Three Oaks. Memorials may be made to the M.D. Andersen Cancer Center, P.O. Box 4486, Houston, Texas 77210-4486.

www.pobocik.com

Personal Reflections by Dorothy O'Barton-Wirth
Born November 10, 1911
New Buffalo, Michigan
Written November, 2005
Transcribed by John Wirth

I was raised in Sawyer, Michigan. I attended Elementary School in Sawyer, but went the last semester of eighth grade in New Troy. I graduated from New Troy High School in 1930 and from County Normal in 1931. I taught at Coveney Country School in 1932, 1933 and 1934. I was married July 29, 1933 to Clarence Wirth (Nov. 4, 1912: Nov. 13, 1984). My children are: John Lyle Wirth (Aug. 30, 1935), Guy Barry Wirth (Dec. 25, 1940), Carol Sue Wirth-Metz (Dec. 27, 1943: Dec. 24, 1972), Gary Ray Wirth (Oct. 4, 1953) and Rick Clarence Wirth (Dec. 17, 1955: Aug. 9, 1996).

As a student in Sawyer Elementary School, I learned to jump rope (Champion jumper with over 100 jumps without a miss). Also, a fast runner! Roller skating was another joy! I learned climbing trees, eating mulberries and checking the bird nests in Knights orchard across from our home. Sometimes I also gathered a few apples and pears that were on the ground. I enjoyed cutting paper dolls from the catalogs and making clothes for them.

On Sundays we walked to Grandpa Brant's and played in Grandpas barn in the hay mows. There was a rope from the top of the barn. I could climb the rope and they would swing me. The rest could not. Vera wanted to swing so we pulled the rope over to the beam. She held onto the rope. "Hold on to the rope, Vera said" Wilma and I did not hold on and as she jumped she swung across and hit her head on the opposite beam. Down the rope she came. She was furious and rightly so. But it was so funny.

Some of the cousins were also present. Aunt Edith Spalding lived nearby as did Vera, Elton, Ruth Aunt Effie Myers (who lived in Bridgman), Wilma and Juanita. We always had lots to do, playing in Grandpa's barn, going Warrens Woods, etc. We walked up the sand track to the woods picking flowers, swinging on grapevines, and picking mushrooms in the spring in a little prairie where we picked strawberries. Oh, so good. Grandma Brant would always have big sugar cookies for us.

It seemed that Vera always got into trouble, wet feet, torn hose, etc.. Her mother was very strict so that to solve the problem we went to Grandma Brant's to dry her hose and shoes in a stove.

In the winter we would go with sleds to the hills. Such good times! Bernice slid down (a belly flop) and the sled stopped in the snow. She slid on her stomach, taking off a recent vaccination scab. Her arm was really sore. One time we walked over many hills to the lake.

Elton had an Overland open car. We went for rides. When seeing horses or cows etc. he would shut off the engine, give it gas and make the car backfire. The horses would panic.

Fun! Vera would act impish with silly laughing. Elton would say "shut up or I will throw you out." Elton never did.

One time, Wilma, Vera and I were back by the hills. There was a tube under the railroad with water entering one end and going out the other. It was about 18 inches deep at the end. I thought it would be fun to run in the tube. Vera and Wilma could not jump the deep water. "I could I said. " But I didn't make it. I fell back and was wet. "Take off your clothes." So I did and they hung them on some bushes. It was fun running in the tube naked as a jaybird.

On one of our trips to the woods as we were coming home we had to cross a stream. A log was over the stream. "I can walk over that." We all walked the log but Vera: "I can't I shall surely fall." We convinced her that she could, but her foot slipped into the freezing water. "Well since I got one foot wet I might as well have two" she said, crunching the ice as she walked. Once again to grandma's house dry out!

Another time Vera and I walked in the grape patch. There was a very fat end post. "It would be fun to set up there." So Vera hoisted me up and I sat on the post singing, etc. Getting down was the problem. I jumped out but my dress caught on the post and there I hung. I had slit my dress. Boy, did I have problems!

I used to tease the black cow. She was mean when she had her calf. I would run at her and stamp my feet. She would put her head down and chase me. I would run, lie down and roll under the barb fence. The last time I caught my coat on the barbs and slit it down the back. Trouble!

It seems we always had a mean cow, rooster, goose or turkey. Dad always wanted to weigh the goose. I had a long coat. I would run out to the goose, turn and run back. The goose would grab my coat and would not let go. I would run to dad and he had the goose! Our old dog "Pup" would catch the goose, grab his neck and lay on him until Dad would get there. They seem to know when school was out. They would be in the drive way waiting. "Mom," I would scream. She came with a broom and whacked them. All the honking!

We had a mean turkey. Vera and I would tease him and run. One time he chased us around the house. Vera had hold of my jacket and was looking back. I jumped up and over a basket in our path. Vera, of course, fell as she hit it. Both of us were on the ground thinking the turkey was on a tail. But alas he had tired of the chase and had stopped a long way back.

I remember I had fascination with teepees. I tried so hard to make one, as I recall, but never did. I also really remember making mud pies and using catalpa seed pods for green beans and such for playing store.

I love to help dad with chores. Guess I like to be praised for a job well done. I would brush the flies from the cows with weeds while he milked out in the yard. Dad made such

a pet of the cows. He would whistle and they would come running from the woods. I pumped water before he came home from work for the animals. He worked very hard. He was so kind. I loved him very much. I remember sitting in the barn on a wall foundation behind the cows. He would squirt milk in my open mouth. Pretty good shot.

Vera and I went to New Troy the last semester of the eighth grade to look avoid taking the state exam. In the ninth grade I had appendicitis. My appendix broke on the way to the hospital. Elton Spalding, Vera's brother, drove me to the hospital. I was in the hospital seven weeks. "You are a lucky girl" Dr. King told me. "We nearly lost you." I had a fever of 106 from peritonitis. I was home three more weeks before going back to school. I had to go into Mr. Conrad Kelley's room for algebra. Vera would not go with me. "He will ask me a question and I won't know it." He was a mean, sarcastic person to those he didn't like. "You're his pet" said Vera.

Vera and I were very close friends through our young lives. Phil and Vera started going together in the 10th grade, I believe. Phil and Clarence were buddies, so Phil was responsible for dad and me starting to date. Phil had a flivver (Ford car) and the four of us would go for rides. We also walked down to the bridge pass the mill in our noon hours. Dad and I started to become more serious in the 11th grade. We had lots of fun as a foursome.

When we graduated from high school, Phil, Clarence and I were in a mixed quartet for graduation. Vera and I played a piano duet.

In the fall of 1930, Phil and I went to Berrien County Normal and Clarence went to Park Air College. Dad always loved airplanes. He took a mechanical course but did not pursue this as he was needed to help his father and there was not much going on in the airplane business. Through the fall of 1934 I taught school at Coveney, Buchanan District (1932, 1933, and 1934).

We were married on July 29, 1933 at the home of Clarence's sister Lois Watson in Buchanan. We went to Mammoth Cave in Kentucky for our honeymoon. Clarence had a cold and sore throat before we left and it steadily worsened. When we came back we stayed at Lois's for three or four days. He had strep throat. The doctor lanced his throat. He could barely swallow!

Clarence's mom and dad could not move into their rented home for three weeks. They moved to a small home owned by the Pipers. They lived there one year and then bought a small home from Tindels (Findels?) next to the church.

We bought our bedroom set in 1932 in Chicago.

Early Memories of Clarence:
Written by Dorothy Wirth
Transcribed by John Wirth

Clarence and I met for the first time in the old New Troy eighth grade room, January of 1926, he coming from Elm Valley School District and I from Sawyer. Our folks paid tuition for us to attend New Troy School *in the last half of the eighth grade.* We then would not have to take the State exams as they were extremely difficult for county students. Our acquaintance was only "that" during the eighth grade, barely speaking to one another.

Our first year of high school was about the same as the eighth grade. Vera Sexton, being my best friend and cousin, and Phil Sexton, being Clarence's best friend, were responsible for our seeing each other. Phil had an old Ford sedan. We, the four of us, would go for rides, or walk down to the river bridge during noon hour. We began to double date in the last of our sophomore year and then in our junior year at high school we dated and became more serious about each other.

I remember Clarence as a freshman to be full of fun. He and Phil always had a great time together, laughing and carrying on. A group of freshman boys were usually running races on the road in front of the school. Clarence could run quite fast because of his long legs. He would go to the store at noon and return with a yeast cake in one hand and a handful of peanuts in the other.

Note: Words in italics were added by the transcriber for clarity

DOROTHY O'BARTON OF SAWYER IS BRIDE OF CLARENCE WIRTH

33

NEW TROY, Aug. 2 (Special)—The marriage of Miss Dorothy O'Barton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O'Barton of Sawyer, and Clarence Wirth, son of Mr. and Mrs. Otis Wirth of New Troy, was performed at 6 o'clock Saturday evening in the garden at the home of the groom's sister, Mrs. Everett Watson, of Buchanan.

The bride was attended by her cousin, Miss Vera Spaulding of Sawyer and the groom by Philip Sexton of New Troy. The single ring service was read by the Rev. Thomas Rice of the Methodist church, Buchanan.

Supper was served in the garden by Mrs. J. W. Kelley and Mrs. Earl Dereflinger, following the ceremony.

The couple are taking a week's motor trip.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Wirth are graduates of New Troy high school and are among the most popular young people of this community.

Marriage notice for Dorothy and Clarence

Vera, Phil and Dorothy at the bridge over Galien River in New Troy

My Michigan Hero

Jenny Wirth
English8, 3rd hr
11/7/11

If someone had asked spirited, seven year old Dorothy O'Barton what she had been doing when it was announced that World War I had ended, she would have had a one of a kind answer. On November 11, 1918, Dorothy ran to her Sawyer church to ring its bell, proclaiming to the surrounding townspeople the official end of the First World War. Dorothy O'Barton was my grandma, and she is my hero.

Dorothy grew up in a close family of five brothers and sisters on a Centennial Farm in Sawyer, Michigan. Her two baby brothers, that she loved deeply, died at a young age of scarlet fever. Dorothy worked hard, both in the fields, and in the house. It wasn't all work though, Dorothy and her sisters, Bernice and Leadell, spent their free time running through the woods and climbing trees. Dorothy prided herself on being the fastest runner.

Dorothy taught in a one room schoolhouse for several years before getting married to Clarence Wirth, and moving to his Centennial Farm. They had five children; Guy, Jack, Carol, Rick, and Gary Wirth. Rick, their youngest child, was diagnosed with polio when he was still a baby. Every morning Dorothy would put her son's leg braces in the stove so that they would be nice and warm when he put them on. Rick had several surgeries, and Dorothy helped him exercise daily to keep his legs moving.

My Grandma was a terrific cook. She had to feed five hungry children and the thrashers that worked the fields at harvest. The Wirth farm was the thrashers' favorite place to work, because that's where they were served the best food. Every time we went to see my grandma, she had a feast of pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, fresh green beans, scalloped corn, tossed salad with homemade dressing, ice cream, chocolate chip cookies, and pumpkin pie, prepared just for us. She would always ask my sister and me what kind of pie we wanted her to make us.

Some of the fondest memories of my grandma are the themed parties she used to plan for us. Once she dressed as a pirate with a stuffed parrot attached to her shoulder, found a boat, and created a sail. She sent us on a treasure hunt. Another time she invited us to a tea party complete with dress ups, and fancy finger sandwiches. My grandmother made my sister and me feel special.

My grandmother was fun, but she was also very strong. She lost a lot of people in her life; her little brothers, her only daughter to breast cancer, her son, Rick, in a small airplane crash, and her husband to prostate cancer. I watched my grandmother's body deteriorate so that she could no longer run like she used to. I was there for her in hospice as she was dying. She was as graceful in death as she was in life. Dorothy Wirth is my grandma and she will always be my hero.

Written by Jenny Wirth as a class project in November, 2010

Lois Mae Wirth | 1906-1962

Lois was the firstborn child of Otis and Rosemond Wirth. She was born on the Wirth farm on May 17, 1906. Several photos of her have been shown in other chapters as she was an integral part of the Wirth family as it unfolded over the first decades of the 20th century. She left a large record of these years since she obtained in her teenage years a small Brownie Kodak camera. She kept those images and others she obtained in an album which was left at the Wirth farm after she married and started her own family and teaching occupation.

The earliest photo of Lois found in the Wirth albums is shown here. She is shown on the right with her cousin Hazel Wirth, the daughter of Herbert and Clara Wirth. Lois is about 1 year old, making the date of the photo about 1907.

She grew up on the Wirth farm and probably did what young girls did in those days. She probably played with her cousins who lived nearby until they moved with their parents to Idaho in about 1910. Lois is shown below with cousins Hazel, Ruth and Fern (baby).

When she reached school age, Lois went to grade school at Elm Valley School, a one room rural school, located about 1 mile SE of the farm. There were several other children in the neighborhood who were about her age. A boy, John Barkhouse, lived just ½ mile south of the Wirth farm and also attended Elm Valley. Another girl, Geraldine Roberts, did not live close by, but also went to the same school. There were many other children around, but these two graduated from Elm Valley with Lois and went on to attend Three Oaks High School in subsequent years.

As Lois grew up, she seemed to have a relatively normal childhood. She is shown here with her collection of dolls in front of the Wirth farmhouse. Her brother Clarence is in the background on his tricycle. Many of the photos retained by the family show Lois with her grandmother Rose Raven-Wirth rather than with her mother

Rosemond. This reinforces the image that her grandmother was the dominant force around the farm as noted in chapter ROSE RAVEN. Family members also suggest that Lois was the dominant person in her later married life, perhaps a trait learned from her grandmother.

In about 1920, Lois travelled with her grandmother to OH to visit relatives. She took several photos during the trip as shown below. The left one shows her with her grandmother (on left) and her grandmother's cousin Rena Clotz. Rena is the daughter of David Miller, he being the brother of her grandmother's mother, Julia Miller-Raven-Wallace, and therefore her grandmother's uncle. The photo was taken somewhere near Lorain, OH where Rena lived at the time. The second photo below shows Lois with Edith Clotz-Caddin. Edith is the daughter of Rena and lived in the Lorain, OH area as well.

The above photos helped solve a mystery. Our father Clarence Wirth told of being on a trip with his grandmother to visit relatives somewhere in OH. He slept in the upstairs of a farmhouse and was scared during the night by the eerie whistle of a distant locomotive. While the exact location of the train has not been found, it is likely that he and his grandmother were visiting relatives of David Miller, just as Lois did on this documented trip.

In 1919/20, Lois graduated from Elm Valley rural school. The adjacent photo shows Geraldine, John and Lois as they graduated from 8th grade at Three Oaks High School on June 1, 1920. As in many cases, they attended Elm Valley rural school for the first half year and the Three Oaks High School for the second half of their 8th grade year. Because they graduated from the high school, they did not have to take the state entrance exam to be admitted to the freshman class next year.

The photo album that Lois assembled has many photos taken during her high school days. Geraldine is in many of them which suggests that she and Lois were very good friends. This album has been copied and images are available in JPEG format. The album contains photos showing the installation of stone roads to replace the gravel ones, harvesting grain on the Wirth farm, grading the hill west of the Morley grist mill in New Troy, etc.

The photo below is in celebration of her graduation from high school in May, 1924. All of her high school grades were saved by her parents and indicate that she was a modest student with a mixture of As, Bs and Cs.

After graduation, Lois went on to become a teacher. Her course of schooling is not known to the authors. She may have attended one of the "County Normal" schools which provided temporary teaching certificates pending more complete studies at a college or university. Her grandfather Orlando Smith comments in one of his letters to a New Troy area newspaper that his granddaughter was teaching in one of the schools in the area. The letter is dated about 1925, suggesting that she may have attended a Normal School somewhere and then taught for several years in the rural schools prior to getting a teaching degree.

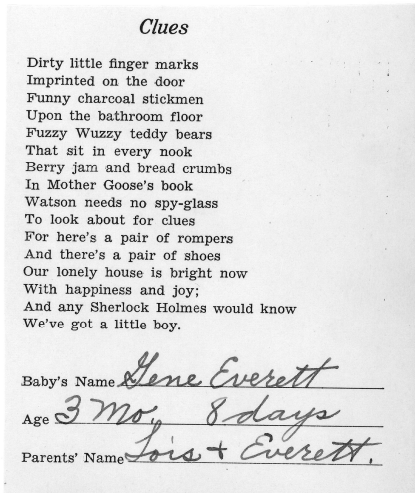
Several photographs in her album show her future husband Everett Watson. Since he lived in Buchanan, it is not clear how they met. They did meet, however, and the wedding photo below shows their likeness on June 16, 1928. They were married at the Wirth farmhouse according to her obituary shown later.

The 1930 census shows them living on Whitman Court in Buchanan, MI. Everett is listed as a machinist in a steel equipment company and Lois is a teacher in the public school. Her obituary indicates that she obtained her teaching degree from Western Michigan university. This degree

must have been attained much later, however, however since the 1940 census indicates that at that time she had only 2 years of college education.

They purchased their first car in 1931, a 1931 Chevrolet which is still in the family. It is shown on the left margin in the photo below. The people in the photograph are thought to be (L/R) Ruth Wirth-Bridgford, Clara Morley-Wirth, Otis Wirth, Lois Wirth-Watson, Amanda Morley, Everett Watson, Clarence Wirth and Fern Wirth-Larson. The car on the right margin is possible a ford coupe owned by Clarence Wirth. The photo is thought to have been taken on the Wirth farm looking NE with the corner of the log cabin lean-tos on the right margin above the car. The daughters of Herbert Wirth must have been visiting during this time. Clarence Wirth recalled that he was standing near the Wirth barn when Lois and Everett drove in with the car. The photo was labeled in Lois' album as "1931."

Life continued at a normal pace for the next few years. For whatever reason, Lois and Everett were not able to conceive and it was decided to adopt a child. Their son Gene was adopted at the age of 3 months 8 days implying that he was adopted on May 3, 1940; Gene was born on January 26, 1940 in Chicago. The left photo below shows Lois in front of their home in Buchanan with their new son.



Clues

Dirty little finger marks
Imprinted on the door
Funny charcoal stickmen
Upon the bathroom floor
Fuzzy Wuzzy teddy bears
That sit in every nook
Berry jam and bread crumbs
In Mother Goose's book
Watson needs no spy-glass
To look about for clues
For here's a pair of rompers
And there's a pair of shoes
Our lonely house is bright now
With happiness and joy;
And any Sherlock Holmes would know
We've got a little boy.

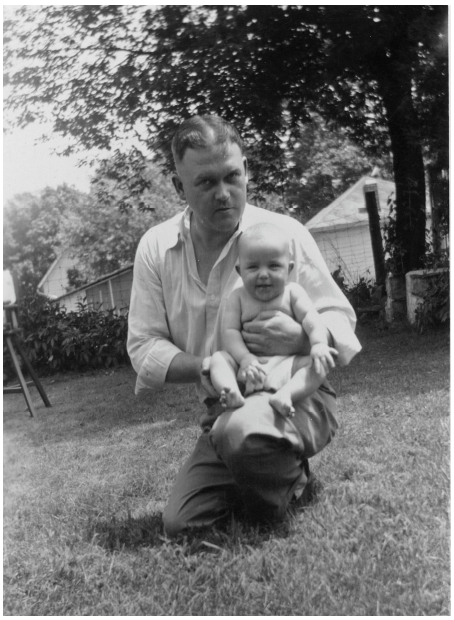
Baby's Name Gene Everett
Age 3 Mo, 8 days
Parents' Name Lois + Everett.

The photo on the right shows Everett holding Gene, probably in the backyard of their home. The photo was taken in the late summer, early fall of 1940 based upon Gene's age.

The adoption announcement is shown below.

During the 1940s, there was frequent contact between the Wirth and Watson families. The author remembers many Christmas get-togethers at the Watson home. Gene was well treated with many neat gifts, a train track in the basement, etc. Lois and Everett were considerably better off than Clarence and Dorothy, and they treated Gene quite well, somewhat to the envy of the author. Many years later it was learned that Gene also envied the authors with their life on a farm, model airplanes, etc.

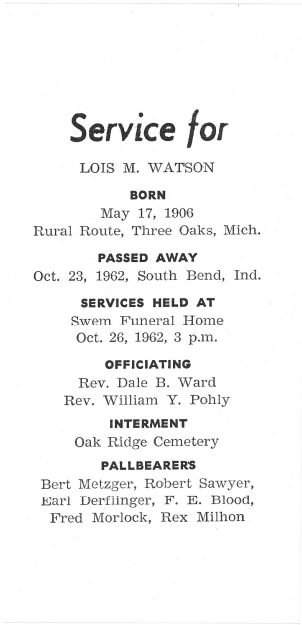
The photo below is a formal family portrait taken in about 1945 when Gene would have been about 5.



In the years that followed there were many family visits but few were recorded in photographic form. Lois took some 8mm movies of flying model airplanes at the farm, etc. that Gene later transferred to a modern format and gave to the author. Lois and Everett built a new modern home on the eastern outskirts of Buchanan. Gene then went on to grade school and high school in Buchanan and Lois returned to teaching. She probably attained her teaching degree from Western Michigan University later, perhaps through night school.

Early in 1960, however, Lois health began to falter. After an initial diagnosis of breast cancer, she obtained a second opinion from the Mayo Clinic which confirmed the severity of her illness. She confided the diagnosis with her brother Clarence but asked that it not be given to Everett. That Clarence knew of the prognosis, and Everett did not, led to a breach in their interactions which lasted for many years. Lois passed away on October 23, 1962.

Below are copies of Lois' funeral service and obituaries. The obituaries indicate that she taught school for 22 years. Since she was teaching in 1930 according to the census of that year, she must have dropped out for a few years while Gene was young.



Service for

LOIS M. WATSON

BORN
May 17, 1906
Rural Route, Three Oaks, Mich.

PASSED AWAY
Oct. 23, 1962, South Bend, Ind.

SERVICES HELD AT
Swem Funeral Home
Oct. 26, 1962, 3 p.m.

OFFICIATING
Rev. Dale B. Ward
Rev. William Y. Pohly

INTERMENT
Oak Ridge Cemetery

PALLBEARERS
Bert Metzger, Robert Sawyer,
Earl Derflinger, F. E. Blood,
Fred Morlock, Rex Milhon

Set Rites for Mrs. Watson

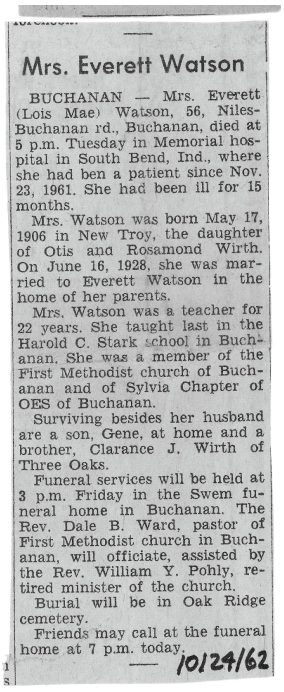
Funeral services for Mrs. Everett J. (Lois Mae) Watson will be held Friday, Oct. 26, at 3 p.m. in the Swem Funeral home. The Rev. Dale B. Ward, pastor of the First Methodist church, and Rev. William Y. Pohly, retired minister, will conduct the services. Interment will be in Oak Ridge cemetery.

Mrs. Watson was born May 17, 1906, the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Wirth, who resided near New Troy. June 16, 1928, she married Everett J. Watson in the home of her parents.

Mrs. Watson had been a school teacher at Cedar Lane school for 20 years. Her latest teaching position was in special education at H. C. Stark school last fall. She received her teaching degree from Western Michigan university in Kalamazoo. Mrs. Watson was a member of the First Methodist church and of Sylvia Chapter, Order of Eastern Star.

She died Tuesday evening, Oct. 23, at 5 p.m. at Memorial hospital in South Bend, Ind.

Survivors include her husband; one son, Gene E. Watson, at home; and a brother, Clarence J. Wirth of Three Oaks.



Mrs. Everett Watson

BUCHANAN — Mrs. Everett (Lois Mae) Watson, 56, Niles-Buchanan rd., Buchanan, died at 5 p.m. Tuesday in Memorial hospital in South Bend, Ind., where she had ben a patient since Nov. 23, 1961. She had been ill for 15 months.

Mrs. Watson was born May 17, 1906 in New Troy, the daughter of Otis and Rosamond Wirth. On June 16, 1928, she was married to Everett Watson in the home of her parents.

Mrs. Watson was a teacher for 22 years. She taught last in the Harold C. Stark school in Buchanan. She was a member of the First Methodist church of Buchanan and of Sylvia Chapter of OES of Buchanan.

Surviving besides her husband are a son, Gene, at home and a brother, Clarance J. Wirth of Three Oaks.

Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. Friday in the Swem funeral home in Buchanan. The Rev. Dale B. Ward, pastor of First Methodist church in Buchanan, will officiate, assisted by the Rev. William Y. Pohly, retired minister of the church.

Burial will be in Oak Ridge cemetery.

Friends may call at the funeral home at 7 p.m. today.

10/24/62

Lois's husband Everett survived her for many years. He passed away on April 12, 1989 as indicated by the above announcement.

After Lois died, Gene married Laurain (Lari) Mullen of Buchanan in 1962. Gene attended night school for many years and finally received a degree in finance. Gene went on to become the manager of a branch bank in Galien, MI. He and Lari have two daughters, Carrie and Dana, and two granddaughters. Gene had severe diabetes which ultimately led to a fatal stroke. His death notice is adjacent.

IN MEMORY OF

EVERETT J. WATSON

BORN
September 7, 1904

DIED
April 12, 1989

SERVICES
Swem Funeral Home
1:30 p.m. April 27, 1989

Officiating
Rev. Curtis Jensen

INTERMENT
Oak Ridge Cemetery
Buchanan, Michigan

PALLBEARERS
Wm. Barlow, Elton Lash,
Steve Pressey, Wm. Barnes,
John Harrington, Oscar Enger

In Loving Memory of

GENE E. WATSON

Date of Birth
January 26, 1940
Cook County, Illinois

Date of Death
February 24, 2000
South Bend, Indiana

Funeral Service
11:00 a.m. February 28, 2000
Swem Funeral Home

Eulogy
Corbin Detgen

Interment
Cremation

Guy Wirth | 1940-2017

Guy Barry Wirth passed away peacefully on April 5, 2017. He was a miraculous 17-year survivor of a glioblastoma brain tumor but eventually succumbed to the side-effects of radiation therapy. He was 76-years old. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Dana Wirth-Santell; parents, Clarence and Dorothy Wirth; brother, Rick; and sister, Carol Metz.

Guy is survived by his wife of 57 years, Darlene (Barker) Wirth; brothers, Jack and Gary; sons, Gregory and Jeffrey (Elizabeth); twin daughters, Laura and Lynne; five grandchildren, Carol Palombo-London (John); Julia Santell; Samuel, Olivia and Abigail Wirth; and two great grandchildren, Madison and John "Jack" London; six nieces and nine nephews; and cousin, William Tucker.

Guy was born December 25, 1940 in Niles, Michigan. He grew up on the family centennial farm and had fond memories of his childhood. He graduated salutatorian from New Troy High School and received a scholarship from Michigan State University, where he studied chemical engineering. He married his high school sweetheart, Darlene and packed everything into their 55 Ford and moved into married housing in East Lansing.

He attended MSU full-time, working summers in Michigan. As a teaching assistant at MSU, he was offered a fellowship and went on to get his PhD. in Chemical Engineering.

After graduating in 1968, he was offered a job with Esso (Exxon) Research and Engineering in Florham Park, New Jersey. In 1977 his career took him to the Exxon Chemical plant in Baton Rouge and then to the Exxon Chemical Headquarters in Houston, where he retired March 31, 2000.

Guy did everything he set his mind to—fixing and building things, remodeling the many homes where the family lived, building a barn at their weekend getaway place and restoring an old Ford 9N tractor, or coaching his son's soccer team. Guy's focus was always on his family. He was most proud that all of five children attended universities, have careers of their own and like coming home for frequent visits. The family is proud to know that his name is on the commemorative patent wall in the Energy Center at ExxonMobil in Houston for three patents.

He will always be remembered for his intelligence, patience, wisdom, integrity, gentleness and strength and will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

A memorial service will be held in Houston on April 14 for family and friends.

Carol (Wirth) Metz | 1943-1972

Mrs. David Metz

THREE OAKS — Mrs. David (Carol S.) Metz, 28, of 549 Rampart Way, East Lansing, died at 10:55 p.m. Sunday in Memorial hospital, St. Joseph, where she had been a patient two weeks.

Mrs. Metz was born Dec. 27, 1943, in Three Oaks, the daughter of Clarence and Dorothy O'Barton Wirth.

Survivors include her husband, whom she married Oct. 24, 1964, in Sawyer; her parents of Three Oaks; four brothers, John L. of Livermore, Calif., Guy B. of Florham Park, N.J., and Gary R. and Rick of Three Oaks.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday at 2 p.m. in the Connelly-Noble funeral home, Three Oaks. Burial will follow in New Troy cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Rick Wirth | 1955-1996

Rick Wirth

Rick Clarence Wirth, 40, formerly of Weesaw Township, died Friday in a plane crash near Charlotte, Mich.

WIRTH

Funeral arrangements for Mr. Wirth were incomplete Saturday.

Mr. Wirth was born Dec. 17, 1955 in St. Joseph and was raised on his parents' Weesaw Township farm. When he was an infant, he was stricken with polio, and doctors said he would never have a normal life.

But Mr. Wirth never let his handicap get in his way of doing what he wanted to do. He graduated from River Valley High School in 1974 and earned his bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University.

He married, had two children, and at the time of his death, was employed as an engineer/team leader at General Motors in Lansing.

Mr. Wirth got his love of flying from his father, who was a pilot. Several years ago, Mr. Wirth learned how to fly and recently earned his pilot's license.

Survivors include: his wife, Kathy of Charlotte; children — Cheryl, 14, and Evan, 12; his mother, Dorothy Wirth of Weesaw Township; and brothers Gary Wirth of St. Joseph, Guy Wirth of Baton Rouge, La., and Jack Wirth of Albuquerque, N.M. He was preceded in death by his father, Clarence, in 1984, and a sister, Carol, in 1973.